

Velsicol

Velsicol Official Denies Cancer Link To Chlordane

Business and Industry (WV)

Paris Beacon News 4/6/87

Editor's Note: The following statement was issued this week by Velsicol vice president Charles H. Frommer from the main offices of Velsicol Chemical Corp. in Rosemont, Ill. concerning recent discussion concerning the insecticide chlordane. The Velsicol plant at Marshall is the nation's only producer of chlordane, the plant's chief product for a number of years.

Velsicol is the sole manufacturer of chlordane. Recent news reports have carried a number of allegations about the health effects of this product. We would like to respond to those allegations.

Of great concern to Velsicol is the charge that chlordane poses a high risk of cancer. This is simply not true. Neither the scientific evidence, nor the experience of almost four decades, supports this conclusion.

In fact, all the evidence points the other way--that chlordane does not cause cancer in people. If chlordane did cause cancer in people, we would have seen it by now. But it isn't there.

—More than 16,000 pest control

workers who applied chlordane for decades show no health problems whatever relating to their chlordane exposure.

—Velsicol plant workers who have manufactured chlordane for up to 34 years show absolutely no harmful effects from chlordane.

Exhaustive epidemiological studies have been done of these two groups. They have direct occupational exposure on a day-to-day basis. And scientists agree that studies of humans who work with or are most frequently exposed to a chemical are the best indicator of a potential health hazard.

Many news organizations have published charges against chlordane, while ignoring this scientific data. This lack of balance does a disservice to the public. It can also create unrealistic fears among homeowners.

There is no scientific evidence that chlordane causes any health problems, let alone cancer. Some people can get a headache or nausea from what they consider objectionable odors, even some perfumes or colognes. Similarly, a transient headache might result from the slight odor which may be present briefly after a chlordane treatment. But this is not a reason to say that chlordane causes "health problems," any more than it would be reason to say that perfumes cause "health problems."

Extensive tests on monkeys, and baboons (whose respiratory system is closest to man's) showed no ill effects of chlordane. These tests were at exaggerated exposure levels of up to 2,000 times the National Academy of Sciences guidelines levels for homes--higher exposure levels than any

homeowner or our workers would be exposed to, even in the event of a missapplication or during production.

Tumors did appear in tests involving a particular strain of cancer-prone mice. But the International Agency for Research and Cancer reviewed all the chlordane test data and concluded that chlordane is not a confirmed animal carcinogen. As noted above, there is no evidence whatever that chlordane can cause cancer in people.

Chlordane is currently protecting an estimated 30 million American homes. It stops billions of dollars in termite damage each year.

Since 1978--under an agreement between Velsicol, U.S. EPA, the Environmental Defense Fund, and others--the use of chlordane has been essentially restricted to termite control. It remains the major product used around the world to combat termites.

Chlordane, along with a number of other termiticides, is being reviewed by the U.S. EPA. Chlordane has been on the market for almost 40 years. It has been tested as much as, if not more than, any chemical known to man.

Velsicol is fully confident that the EPA's review of the scientific evidence will be positive. Chlordane will remain on the market. It will continue to provide a valuable service for homeowners in the U.S.

We hope that our input will assist your organization in providing balanced coverage of this issue.

Sincerely

Velsicol Chemical Corporation

Charles H. Frommer

Vice President

Regulatory, Government and Public Affairs

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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Business and Industry (WV)

Velsicol Receives More Protests On Chlordane

Editor's Note: Velsicol's production of Chlordane is handled exclusively at its Marshall plant, which has drawn attention in the past from environmental activists protesting manufacture of the insecticide now used primarily in the U.S. for termite control.

Karis Beacon News 3/27/87
 LANSING, Mich. (UPI)—Environmental and citizens groups Thursday joined Gov. James J. Blanchard's call for a ban on the pesticide chlordane, saying it poses "extraordinary risks" for occupants of homes treated with the chemical.

Backers of the ban claimed there is scientific evidence associating chlordane with cancer, blood diseases, psychological problems and other health problems. One researcher accused Velsicol Chemical Co., which manufactures the substance, of engaging in "white collar crime," for allegedly suppressing evidence of the chemical's dangers.

The company hotly denied the charge and said there is no data showing health problems from the chemical.

"It is safe when used in accordance with label directions," said Velsicol Vice President Charles Frommer in a telephone interview from the firm's Chicago headquarters.

Frommer would not reveal how much chlordane the company produces.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources records show that more than 8,400 pounds of the substance was sold in Michigan in 1985.

Children, said a statement from the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, face a particular risk from Chlordane.

"The most frightening potential risk may be posed to nursing newborns who not only are subject to... high indoor air exposures but are also receiving magnified levels of chlordane through breast milk," said WMEAC program specialist Robert Newberry.

"We believe that chlordane can present extraordinary risks to occupants of chlordane-treated homes and buildings," Newberry said. He said air inside homes can become contaminated and a home can remain tainted with the chemical for years, even if properly applied, because there is no effective way to destroy it.

A distant chemical relative of the banned pesticide DDT, chlordane is used in controlling termites. It has been found in Great Lakes fish and "is a chemical of persistent concern in the Great Lakes," said Blanchard's chief environmental adviser, David Dempsey.

Blanchard called for a ban on the substance in this year's State of the State message. In 1984, he ordered that it be made a "restricted use" pesticide, meaning it can only be applied by licensed applicators.

At a news conference, representatives of the WMEAC backed the ban, claiming support from a number of other groups, including the League of Women Voters and national environmental organizations. The groups also called for bans on heptachlor and aldrin, chemical cousins of chlordane.

"We're really dealing with a major national problem," said Dr. Samuel Epstein, professor of occupational and environmental medicine at the University of Illinois Medical Center. He said the Environmental Protection Agency should have banned the substance a decade ago.

Epstein said he has collected more than 60 case studies, some from industry sources, showing health problems associated with the chemical, some indicating possible links between recent treatment of homes and brain tumors in children.

He said Velsicol is guilty of "white collar crime" for covering up information about the substance.

"As far as indicating we are white collar criminals for withholding data, that is the most outrageous statement I've ever heard of," Frommer said. "There is no data in our files that is not with the EPA."

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✓Business and Industry (WU)

Velsicol won't comment on chlordane report

18 DEC 10 1987
Velsicol Chemical Corp. has stopped selling two leading termite-control chemicals and has no comment on a report released Tuesday that retailers and other distributors could have scores of items made of chlordane not covered by an agreement to end use of the chemical, said Tom Capps, manager of the plant in Marshall, Ill.

Capps said Velsicol is living up to the agreement it made in August with the Environmental Protection Agency to halt domestic sales of chlordane and heptachlor. The agreement didn't require a product recall or stop the sale of items on retailers' shelves. Capps couldn't estimate what inventories might have been when the agreement was announced.

The National Coalition Against the Misuses of Pesticides said retailers and other distributors have products made by an unknown number of companies that held 197 federal pesticide

licenses to sell products made from chlordane and heptachlor. Only two of those licenses are still active, and the companies can't get more raw material because Velsicol is no longer selling it.

The coalition says products made from chlordane constitute a danger to public health, especially since they are in quantities and containers designed for use by consumers and not pest-control firms.

Stanley Abramson, an EPA lawyer, said the agency believes the inventories are trivial, "even though some products may still be on sale."

Capps does not believe there is much product remaining on shelves. He speculated that firms with any on hand when the ban was announced might have gotten a premium price for it.

Chlordane, which is injected into soil to keep termites away, was classified by EPA as a

probable cause of cancer in humans.

As part of a lawsuit filed by the coalition, EPA and Velsicol agreed in October that existing inventories could not be used after Nov. 30 and the company should warn its customers of that fact. Capps said the company's customers were notified with letters.

The coalition has filed a supplement to its lawsuit, saying the existence of an unknown amount of chlordane in the distribution chain buttressed its case that EPA should outlaw chlordane and recall all inventories.

Both Rambo and Ambramson said they believe almost all the Velsicol products, estimated in August at nearly 110,000 pounds, or a two-month supply at usage prevailing then, had been used.

Capps remains confident tests to be concluded in mid-1988 will show the products are safe when properly used.

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Community Affairs File

Environmentalists charge Velsicol dumping chlordane

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Members of an international environmental organization swooped down on Velsicol Chemical Corp., Marshall, Ill., on Thursday to plug a drainage pipe which they said was leaking cancer-causing chlordane into a tributary of the Wabash River.

Two Green Peace members — equipped with respirators and dressed in protective clothing for dramatic effect — floated on a rubber raft in a plant lagoon. They held up a banner that read: "Toxic Waste Equals Toxic World. Reduce It, Don't Produce It."

As a result of Thursday's action, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is going to analyze water samples from the drain, spokesperson William Child said. He also said the company has a closed waste lagoon which is on the Superfund national priority list for cleanup.

Samples from the outfall pipe contained unsafe amounts of the chemical, which is used to kill termites, the group said.

"The company has a long history of environmental irresponsibility," said Ross Schennum, Chicago, president of Green Peace Great Lakes.

He charged the plant directly

dumps poisons into the environment, and that the chlordane has "an incredibly high potential for causing cancer."

Five Green Peace members, including one from Toronto and another from Washington, D.C., began their operation about 7 a.m. Thursday, with company security, management and police authorities eventually arriving at the site and encouraging them to leave. The group left about 11 a.m.

A sheriff was on the scene, but no charges were filed, Thomas Capps, Velsicol plant manager, said.

Capps said the group made "several erroneous assumptions" in conducting its protest. He said the drainage was runoff from a nearby railroad area and did not contain any material from the company.

"We're a zero-discharge plant," he said. "No material leaves this plant unless it is sent out in authorized manner."

The drainage comes through an underground culvert near a company lagoon, emptying into a runoff creek.

He said there could be a trace of the chemical found in water samples. Years ago, such materials were discharged into waterways before such practices were outlawed by EPA.

He also questioned Green Peace

water analyses, which maintained chlordane levels were unacceptably high. "I won't get into a mud-slinging contest about whose analysis is right," he said.

He maintained the company is adhering to EPA regulations. "Who didn't have some environmental problems 15 or 20 years ago?" he asked.

The company is working to clean up a site.

He also said chlordane is a safe product when used properly and that there is no significant evidence that the chemical causes cancer in humans.

Chlordane is the company's primary product.

"We have nothing to hide," he said.

Tad Mondale, a Green Peace researcher from Washington, was one of the protest participants. He reported authorities told him the water in the lagoon was safe enough to drink. "We invited them to take a drink," he said.

He said the company has "generally run a sloppy operation ... They worry about profits first and safety second."

He said company officials may conduct a meeting with Green Peace next week for discussion of environmental issues.

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Velsicol leaving Marshall

Company, its sales cut by EPA, closing plant

By Dick Robinson *Ts JUN 22 1988*
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Velsicol Chemical Corp. announced Tuesday it would close its Marshall, Ill., operation on Aug. 30, costing 40 employees their jobs and bringing to an end the plant's 51-year history in the community.

Plant Manager Tom Capps said the decision to close the plant was based on several economic factors, particularly the decreased volume of business at the Marshall plant.

The plant's volume was reduced drastically last August following an agreement to temporarily halt domestic sales of a chemical that represented a major part of the facility's production. Velsicol, in an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, stopped sales of two leading termite-control chemicals — chlordane and heptachlor — until proof that the alleged cancer-causing compounds could be used safely was presented. Plans for nationwide tests to prove the chemicals' safety have progressed slowly, Capps said.

Velsicol never disclosed the amount of business it did in the two chemicals. The EPA estimated the figure at nearly \$30 million a year, or more than 60 percent of all U.S. sales of the two termite-control chemicals. The company agreed to the ban on domestic sales because publicity about the chemicals' hazards had cost Velsicol many major customers.

Chlordane was made at Marshall, and heptachlor was manufactured at Velsicol's Memphis, Tenn. plant. The two chemicals are used as a mixture.

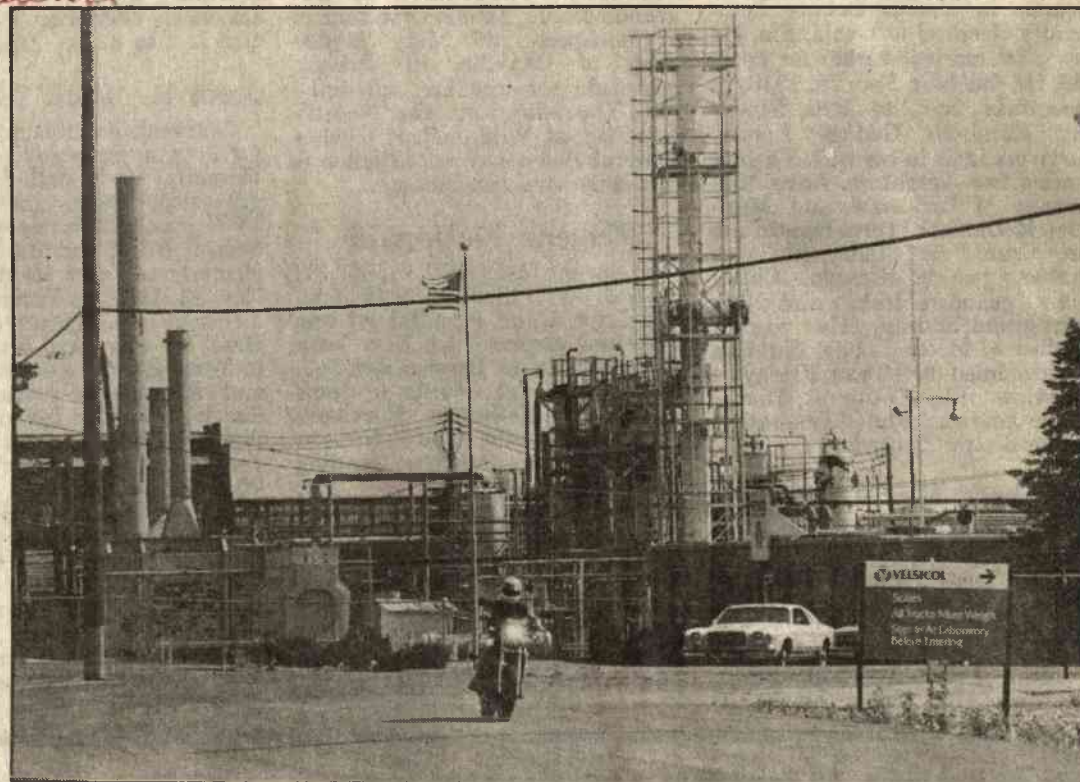
The Marshall plant cut its workforce after the agreement.

Immediately after the agreement, Capps and researchers at Marshall plant embarked upon a program to create new products. While some new products were shipped, commercial development would be too slow to be meaningful to Marshall, Capps said.

"There was nothing to offset the cost of running the plant," Capps said.

Company officials pursued all options before making the decision to discontinue operations at Marshall, Capps said. The decision was made to "do it all at one time and not piecemeal over a period of time," he said.

Capps said he was not aware of any plans to



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

40 workers to lose jobs: Motorcycle rider leaves Velsicol plant; soon all workers will leave plant for last time.

sell the plant to another chemical company.

The Velsicol plant, noted for its long-time employees, has an average age over 50 for its production staff. One employee to be laid off has more than 43 years of service. Capps said most of the workers have been with Velsicol for 20 years.

The company will continue an early retirement program started last year, and many of the workers are eligible for those benefits, Capps said.

Employees will also qualify for the company severance program and assistance through a company job placement service, Capps said.

Although production will stop Aug. 30, there will be a year or two of activity at the plant, Capps said. He has no idea how long it will take

to dismantle the equipment and clear the site, including some environmental work. A portion of the top soil on the plant site will be removed and disposed of according to EPA regulations.

Capps remains confident tests will show chlordane to be a safe product. Velsicol stills owns the label and the product and won't give up either, he said. "While chlordane won't be made at Marshall," Capps said, "some company will be making it for Velsicol."

Velsicol officials met Tuesday with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to outline the plan to close the Marshall plant.

IEPA's public hearing on the Velsicol Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan for the site as a federal superfund project will be conducted as scheduled on Aug. 12 at the Marshall library.

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Velsicol plant gets several calls following fatal mishap in India

By Dick Robinson
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The Velsicol Chemical Corp. plant at Marshall, Ill., smiliar to all the nation's chemical companies, has received telephone queries since the Union Carbide incident at Bhopal, India. People want to know what is being manufactured and the chances of an incident similar to the deadly one in India.

Velsicol does everything possible to prevent such a mishap, according to Vernon J. "Bud" Baarman, vice president of manufacturing. If it did happen here, it would be a case of extreme negligence, he said.

Every piece of equipment is marked with information explaining steps to take in case of a mishap. Also a 24-hour hotline telephone number exists which a passer-by could use to report an incident.

The Union Carbide accident, which has claimed more than 2,000 lives, has already reflected on a safe industry, Baarman said. "The public tends to want to paint all of us with the same brush," he said.

Velsicol purchases some of its chemicals from Union Carbide. Baarman said Union Carbide has strict safety standards for U.S. firms, and he finds it difficult to understand how the incident at Bhopal could have taken place. If it is found that a buyer is not complying with all safety requirements, Union Carbide will refuse to ship more materials.

Union Carbide provided Velsicol with an informational book, several inches thick, on the proper procedure in the handling of just one of its chemicals.

Baarman admits he has no inside information about the incident in India, but what he has learned from news reports raises some questions.

"In the chemical industry, the first few minutes after an incident is important, but as I understand this case, it went on for hours before any action was taken," Baarman said. "We would perceive that as too long to wait."

Baarman said he expects many of the questions to be answered after the investigation. He couldn't say if Union Carbide or if officials from the Madhya Pradesh state would do it.

Marshall plant manager Tom Capps said he and other company officials try to answer all persons requesting information. He said a tendency exists on the part of activist groups to indict the chemical industry without having all the facts.

Velsicol plant managers in the United States are seeking out their area legislators to explain the situation with the chemical industry. "There is nothing to hide in this industry," Capps said.

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Environment agencies to meet with Velsicol on cleanup plan

Community Affairs File

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

12-20-84

The Velsicol Chemical Corp. has been dealt at least a temporary setback in its efforts to close the hazardous-waste site known as the "5-6 pond."

Negotiations with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Attorney General's Office apparently broke down this summer.

The EPAs have requested a meeting with Velsicol this week to discuss their request for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, known as a RIFS.

A RIFS is usually the first step in the cleanup procedure under the federal Superfund program. The study investigates the extent of the possible contamination and then outlines possible alternatives for cleanup.

The 5-6 pond at the Velsicol plant in Marshall was listed as the No. 3 priority for cleanup in Illinois under the Superfund program. It is a 22-acre site that at one time contained 22 million gallons of liquid sludge.

The No. 3 priority Superfund designation did not sit well with Velsicol officials, who said efforts were already underway to clean up the site.

Velsicol has spent more than \$5 million solidifying and cleaning up the 5-6 pond, and the work is just about complete. A one-foot cap of soil has been placed over most of the 22-acre site.

Analysis of the sludge showed that

it was 50 percent water, 40 percent clay and 10 percent organics. The sludge contained by-products of the chlordane and resins operations.

Although Velsicol officials have been working with the EPA on a voluntary cleanup program since 1978, the company is now being asked to start over again with a study of the problems at the site and a review of possible cleanup alternatives.

Velsicol and the regulatory agencies were supposedly negotiating a closure plan for the site, which would include a permanent cap as well as a groundwater monitoring program.

Jack Rademacher, vice president of the Velsicol Corp. in charge of environmental, health and regulatory affairs, called the request for a RIFS "procedural."

Rademacher said he understood the request was a "generic problem" not necessarily aimed just at the Marshall Velsicol plant.

Jeff Brown, environmental manager for the Velsicol's Marshall plant, said he was "surprised" at the EPA's request. Velsicol officials had hoped an agreement with the regulatory agencies could be reached this year and the site closed next year.

However, that timetable will be delayed for at least one year while the investigation and feasibility study are completed.

Doug Crandall, Superfund project manager for the Marshall site, said the EPA has decided a "fairly extensive study of the site" is appropriate at this time. Crandall has been project manager for about two months.

Crandall said the EPA had permitted the solidification of the sludge in the 5-6 pond as a storage facility, but has not permitted the area as a final disposal site.

Crandall said the study will cover soil contamination, air pollution and groundwater contamination.

However Bill Child, a state EPA official who has been working with Velsicol on the site for a couple of years, said the biggest area of concern is the groundwater.

Child said Velsicol negotiated in "good faith" with the regulatory agencies. However he said they offered no proof that the solidification was a "permanent solution" to the problem.

Child said Velsicol could have installed a series of wells to monitor the groundwater in the area when the solidification process was started. Child said that might have shown the solidification had a "positive impact" on the groundwater environment.

However, Brown questions whether enough data could have been collected in two years to make such a determination.

"Due to the length of time that it takes groundwater to move...the data collected would likely not satisfy the agency," Brown said.

Brown added that "the data collected to date, combined with what we know about the attenuation of the clay soils, has not shown that the any chemicals that were found in 5-6 pond were moving" in the groundwater.

"Attenuation" relates to the ten-

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dicies of the chemicals found in the 5-6 pond to "stick" to the clay soil in the area and not to move into the groundwater.

Brown also pointed to numerous groundwater studies and tests which have been done at the Marshall, none of which shows "there are any chemicals moving off site," he said.

Child said the RIFS could cost Velsicol anywhere between \$200,000 and \$500,000 depending on how much of the existing data can be used in the study. Other estimates have been as high as \$1 million.

He said the study must be done by an outside firm, selected either from a list of contractors provided by the EPA or by a contractor mutually agreed upon by both the EPA and Velsicol.

Going into the RIFS, Child said any solution may be recommended. He said it is possible that the solidification and landfill program wanted by Velsicol could be found as a proper solution. It is also possible that the RIFS might suggest the removal of the solidified hazardous waste to another disposal site.

In any case, Child said the sludge can be more easily handled in its current solidified state, which is why the EPA permitted Velsicol to proceed as far as it has with the process.

Child said the talks with Velsicol this summer included a discussion of a contingency cutoff trench which could be used if the monitoring wells showed a problem later on.

However, if Velsicol goes through RIFS process, Child said it is likely the contingency cutoff trench will not be needed to protect groundwater in the area.

Business & Industry (WV)

Affairs File

Marshall (Illinois)

study: EPA official

Velsicol agrees to request for

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

The Velsicol Chemical Corp. has apparently agreed to a request from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for an additional study of the Marshall plant site, according to Bill Child of the Illinois EPA.

Velsicol officials met with Illinois EPA officials Wednesday last week and have agreed to meet again in February to continue discussing the requested study. Velsicol will present an outline of a proposed study at that meeting.

Child said Velsicol agreed to retain an outside, independent contractor to study the "5-6 pond" Superfund site in Marshall. However, the scope of the actual study is still unclear.

Child said the EPA would like the study to include not only the 22-acre 5-6 pond site, but the whole plant site

as well as areas around the plant.

Child said the EPA decided to request a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RIFS) about a month or two ago. An RIFS is usually the first step in a mandated cleanup of a Superfund site. An RIFS includes a study of potential problems and possible alternatives.

Although Velsicol's voluntary cleanup of the 5-6 pond is almost complete, Velsicol officials and EPA officials apparently disagree over why the RIFS study was requested.

Child said the work at the site "slowed down" and the agency decided to ask for the RIFS "to keep the cleanup going." However, no actual work on the site is expected while the nearly year-long process of conducting an RIFS is underway.

Velsicol officials view the situation differently. Jeff Brown, environmental engineer for the Marshall plant, said he was "surprised"

at the request for an RIFS.

Brown said Velsicol thought the negotiating process was still open on the closure of the site and that Velsicol had remained flexible on the points brought up during negotiations.

Velsicol has been working with the EPA and other regulatory agencies on cleaning up the Marshall plant since 1978. Under the voluntary cleanup, actions were agreed upon informally during negotiations and permits were issued for the work to be done.

Velsicol officials were not pleased in 1982 when the Illinois EPA listed the Marshall site as a No. 3 priority for cleanup in the state. Velsicol officials could not understand why the site was given such a high-priority ranking when work on a cleanup program was already underway.

During the past two years, Velsicol has been solidifying

the sludge in the 5-6 pond, and that work is nearly complete.

This year, Velsicol was negotiating with the Illinois EPA and the Illinois Attorney General Office's on the closure of the site.

The closure included a permanent cap over the solidified material and an elaborate groundwater monitoring system.

Child said possible groundwater contamination at the site concerns the EPA. He said there are "enough gaps" in the data now available to make the agency request a "thorough and complete study."

However, Brown said that the data collected to date, along with the known properties of the clay soils in the area, has not indicated the chemicals found in the 5-6 pond were moving. And Brown said the groundwater monitoring system would

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have reported any movement of chemicals in the groundwater.

While the voluntary cleanup program was "informal," Child said cleanup will now fall under a "very rigid (Superfund) structure."

The new route will also be more costly for Velsicol. Not only will Velsicol be responsible for paying between \$250,000 and \$1 million for the RIFS, it will also be responsible for "oversight" costs incurred by the EPA and Velsicol may be assessed fines.

Child estimated the oversight costs would total about \$40,000 if everything went smoothly during the study period of the next year. He said no dollar amounts for any fines were discussed.

While Velsicol officials are not particularly happy about the delay in the cleanup process and the additional expense, Child praised their

attitude and cooperation during the recent meeting.

Brown emphasized the "program has changed directions" and is now under the direction of Jim Frank, manager of the Hazardous Substance Control, Division of Land Pollution, of the state EPA.

He said this is the third group of EPA officials Velsicol has dealt with since the voluntary cleanup started in 1978.

The Marshall Velsicol plant makes chlordane, a chemical used to kill termites. The 5-6 pond contained industrial sludge resulting from about 40 years of chemical production.

In 1980, Velsicol stopped adding waste to the 5-6 pond. Currently all by-products and waste are transported to off-site disposal facilities with small amounts injected into an on-site deep well.

Community Affairs File

Velsicol appears on waste list

JUL 4 1984

Illinois Gov. James Thompson has proposed allocating \$20 million in a state-funded attack on abandoned hazardous waste sites as part of a massive cleanup program.

In a three-year "Clean Illinois" program, Thompson proposed \$2 million to inventory potential danger spots, \$17 million for actual cleanup and \$1 million to monitor groundwater quality.

Illinois has 11 sites on the national priorities list, which are eligible for superfunds, according to Bob Casteel, who is with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This list includes Velsicol Chemical Corp, Marshall, Ill. Velsicol contends its placement on the list is based on outdated information and fails to take into account work done at the facility.

Thompson said four of the 11 sites are being cleaned by the responsible parties, and the other seven would cost an estimated \$45.9 million in superfunds, 10 percent paid by the state.

The state has another nine sites which have been proposed for the national priorities list, Casteel said. Another 16 sites need state attention. "We aren't going to get far with any cleanup for \$20 million."

The first step in Thompson's proposal would be an assessment of potential dangerous hazardous waste sites, currently numbering 853, Casteel said.

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Protest held near chemical plant

Marshall (Illinois)
Marshall, Ill. (UPI) — A group of protesters Thursday blocked a drainage pipe in a lagoon leading from the Velsicol Chemical plant to a tributary of the East Mill Creek, authorities and the protesters said.

Members of the Greenpeace environmental group said the company has dumped chlordane, a highly poisonous insecticide, into the creek. Marshall is near Terre Haute, Ind.

A spokeswoman for the Clark County Sheriff's office said about six to eight people were involved in the peaceful demonstration and no charges were filed.

"They got their publicity, and now they've left," she said.

Jeff Brown, environmental manager at the plant, denied the company has polluted the creek. He said the company samples water quality on a quarterly basis for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

"No, we're not polluting," Brown told reporters at the site.

Simple plan 3/9/84
The pipe plugged by the protesters is part of a storm water system to protect the creek, he said. Sampling by the company has not revealed any hazardous waste or other pollutants, he said.

"We haven't had a problem at that outflow," he said.

Greenpeace spokesman John Hinck said the group, using a raft to reach the pipe, plugged it with a

wooden disk surrounded by an inertube.

Greenpeace contends its own water samples showed high levels of chlordane spilling from the pipe. Chlordane is a popular pesticide, banned for agricultural use, mostly used now to fight termites.

The protesters tried to schedule a debate with company officials but were unsuccessful, they said.

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Community Affairs File

'Same old garbage'

T's JUL 4 1984

Velsicol unhappy about cleanup list

By Dick Robinson
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Illinois Gov. James Thompson included Velsicol Chemical Corp., Marshall, Ill., on a list of cleanup sites in his proposal for the most ambitious hazardous waste cleanup program in the state's history.

Velsicol was third on a national list of 36 sites — behind A&F Materials, Greenup, Ill., and Wauconda Sand and Gravel, Wauconda, Ill., — a ranking the Marshall-based chemical company doesn't deserve and strenuously objects to, Tom Capps, plant manager, said.

The sites were rated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Hazard Ranking System, Bob Casteel, Illinois EPA, said. Rankings are based on the environmental hazard and public health and safety, Casteel said. He could not say when

information for the rankings were made.

It is not new information, according to Capps.

"They keep releasing this material that is at least three years old," Capps said. "Regardless of what has been done they keep handing out the same old garbage."

Casteel said, a site's ranking does not change until a work settlement has been developed and approved by U.S. EPA. Illinois is continually adding and deleting sites and currently has more than 800 "potentially dangerous sites." Casteel said a site could range from a drum of waste oil behind a garage to an entire field of waste material or a landfill.

According to the cleanup site listing, Velsicol is contaminating groundwater by allowing chlordane pesticide to leach from holding lagoons. Velsicol objected when EPA placed the firm on its priority

list, because of the alleged contamination. "We didn't agree to it then, and we never have agreed with it," Capps said, "but it doesn't do any good."

Capps charged the state and federal EPA are trying to make it appear Velsicol is currently contaminating the area. The only material collected in the lagoons is storm water and it is not discharged from the property, Capps said. All chemicals have been stabilized and secured on the property, he said. The company has spent \$7 million on a deep well injection system, as well as setting up procedures for holding all materials on the property.

"We're eventually going to get off that list," Capps said. "We strenuously object to it and it makes it look as if nothing has been done."

Earlier this year a group of environmentalists attempted to trespass on Velsicol property alleging the company was discharging

chemicals onto the surrounding countryside. Capp invited the group's leaders to see for themselves how chemicals and captured storm water was controlled. At the time, Capp said the environmentalists were just like the government and refused to listen to the facts.

After the incident, state EPA officials checked Velsicol and the surrounding property and determined the only chemicals outside the plant were agriculture chemicals which had run off from nearby farm fields.

"The situation here is the same as it was earlier this year when we got a clean bill of health — nothing has changed," Capps said.

"They just keep haranguing us with the same old stuff, and the public doesn't know what's going on and if the information is old or new."

See related story, Page A4

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Marshall's Velsicol Workers Are Honored For Company Safety Record

Community Affairs File

Marshall (M)

PARIS, Ill.—The 90 employees at Velsicol Chemical Corporation's Marshall plant were honored Wednesday along with 1,218 of their fellow workers nationwide when their firm was recognized as one of the safest chemical manufacturers in the U.S.

At a meeting held near Velsicol's Chicago headquarters and attended by the company's home office employees and several dignitaries representing government, industry and labor, the firm was presented with the Lamont Du Pont Safety Award by the Chemical Manufacturers Assn. and the Award of Honor by the National Safety Council.

The DuPont Award

presented by CMA is given annually to company members who show the greatest reduction in occupational injuries, deaths and illnesses over a five-year period. The National Safety Council's Award of Honor is that organization's highest occupational safety award and is presented to companies which achieve more than three million perfect working hours.

In the calendar year ending in 1983, Velsicol recorded its highest-ever injury reduction rate, achieving a 78 percent decrease in injuries averaged over the previous five years. The firm had logged more than 3.5 million man-hours without a lost-time injury at any of its seven manufacturing plants.

Velsicol's Marshall plant, managed by Thomas H. Capps, has not recorded a lost-time accident for more than two years. That time period is equal to more than a half million man-hours. According to Velsicol records, the Marshall facility has the best record of improvement of all seven plants.

The year 1984 marks the third consecutive year that Velsicol has led the chemical industry in reduction of lost-time accidents for com-

panies of its size. The firm first received the DuPont Safety Award in 1982 but did not repeat as the winner in 1983 because of award rule stipulations which make a firm ineligible for the recognition two years in a row.

Michael H. Moskow, President of Velsicol Chemical Corporation, received the awards from Robert A. Roland, President of the Chemical Manufacturers Assn. and Thomas J. Decker, Vice President of Corporate Relations with the National Safety Council. In accepting the awards on behalf of the company's employees, Moskow recognized the effort of his senior management in designing an effective accident-prevention program, but stressed that safety is a team effort which requires the commitment and support of every plant and office worker.

He also acknowledged that Velsicol's safety program has paid back excellent benefits in terms of greater productivity, enhanced employee morale and improved labor relations.

Velsicol received the Lamont DuPont Safety award in a category for mid-sized chemical firms and is one of three companies

recognized by CMA this year. The Lamont DuPont Safety Award is named for a former chairman of the DuPont Company and was established by the CMA in 1950 "to inspire and encourage member companies

to improve and effectuate their industrial safety programs to prevent personal injury accidents." Three other chemical firms also received the National Safety Council's Award of Honor this year.

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Marshall Independent 3-8-84

Greenpeace activists on raft in Velsicol waste lagoon Thursday, group's spokesman says

Community Affairs File

Marshall Independent

An incident at the Velsicol plant on the north side of Marshall was apparently underway this morning, Thursday, at presstime.

Jeff Barrett-Howard, a spokesman for Greenpeace, an international environmentalist group, said two of the group's members were on a rubber raft on a Velsicol lagoon which is part of the EPA's Superfund cleanup program.

Barrett-Howard also said other members of the group were attempting to "plug an illegal overflow pipe."

A spokesman for the Clark County Sheriff's Department said Sheriff Dan Crumin was on the scene this morning in connection with the incident.

Independent Staff Writer Michael Case was meeting with Velsicol officials this morning to get their reaction to the situation, but that information was not available at presstime.

Barrett-Howard called the action a

"non-violent direct assault on the Velsicol Chemical Corporation. He claimed the Marshall plant had been targeted because of Velsicol's environmental track record and pollution problems at the Marshall plant."

The Marshall plant was given a number-three priority for Superfund cleanup by the Illinois EPA. Velsicol officials were "outraged" by the rating, stating the work towards correcting the problem was already underway when the state EPA issued its list.

EPA officials said the liquid waste was leaching from the pond and might be a threat to ground water. Velsicol officials said the company had been working to correct the problem.

Velsicol hired Frank Bubeck Excavating Co. of West Union in the spring of 1983 to work on stabilizing a sludge pond.

In December of 1983, Velsicol com-

pany officials said work on "stabilizing" the waste-impoundment pond at the Velsicol plant was nearly complete.

Last month, Gloria Craven of the Illinois EPA said negotiations between Velsicol and the EPA were continuing. She said a plan for closing part of the site was expected in the near future.

After the plan is received, a technical review of the closure plan will begin. Craven said earlier this week that the negotiations between Velsicol and the EPA were continuing.

She said hazardous liquids and sludges were being solidified on the site.

The Velsicol plant in Marshall produces Chlordane, which is used for termite control. The federal government has banned its agricultural use in the United States.

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Community Affairs File

Project still 4/26/84 complies with EPA regulations

By Michael Case
Staff Writer

A bill for \$15,000 more than the city of Marshall had approved to complete the new sewage treatment facility plan was submitted to the city council Monday night. The city had originally committed \$52,000 to complete the plan.

Ron Rich of Connor and Connor, the Robinson engineering firm with which the city has contracted to prepare the plan and design the plant, told the council the engineers had provided \$13,125 worth of unauthorized services in hopes of getting 75 percent funding of the plant for Marshall. The state turned down the request April 14.

An additional \$1,800, Rich said, will now be required to complete the facility plan and keep Marshall in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Rich said unless the plan is completed with the changes requested by the EPA the state will refuse to grant any money for the plant and still demand that it be completed by October of 1988.

Part of the unauthorized service provided by Connor and Connor was for work done by the firm in connection with an attempt to get approval to use two lagoon plants in place of a more expensive trickling-filter alternative. The EPA, according to Rich, had originally indicated approval would be granted for the lagoon system. But when the firm met with the EPA April 10 to request a grant amendment, the EPA refused to allow the lagoon system to be used in the facility plan.

Rich said the EPA refused because regulations prohibit such an alternative. Though it is expected the regulations will change within the next year to allow it, the EPA refused to allow Marshall's present facility plan to be based on speculation on future regulations.

A further consideration was that Marshall's population might grow so that the city might violate EPA discharge regulations. The lagoon system is allowed only for towns with less than a certain number of people because of the amount of ammonia the lagoons would discharge into streams.

Connor and Connor requested the additional \$1,800 to complete Marshall's facility plan using—instead of the lagoon system—a trickling-filter system, which will include sand filters

and chlorination. Rich told the city council an additional \$2,000 might be needed if the EPA demands a survey of 20 acres needed to be set aside in the trickling water system for sludge removal.

The survey would determine whether the 20 acres chosen for sludge removal were "archeologically sensitive." The site would have to be changed if the survey found the area contained archeological artifacts, which would be lost if the area was used for sludge removal.

"All we want is protection," Mayor Ted Trefz told Rich. "What have we bought with our money?"

Rich told Trefz and the council the additional \$1,800 would buy completion of the facility plan, which would put the city in compliance with EPA regulations and continue the protection that allows the city a variance from existing regulations.

The council voted to pay the additional money with the provision that no money beyond the amount requested be committed. If a survey is later demanded by the state, Connor and Connor was requested to bring that to the city's attention. An up-to-date billing was also asked to be prepared by Connor and Connor and submitted to the city.

Rich told the council state money to pay for the designing the plant won't be available until 1985. Normally, once the facility plan is completed and approved, he said, the state offers a matching-funds grant immediately to begin design plans. In this situation, where money has been allocated for other purposes leaving none available for the Marshall sewer treatment plant design until 1985, the plant design will have to be put "on hold" until money is available.

In other business the council:

—Heard from Alderman Jim Ryan that alderman Richard Smitley and Utility Superintendent George Smith are inspecting streets and sidewalks and will soon make recommendations on needed repairs.

—Heard from Alderman Terry Clatfelter applicants for positions at the city pool are being interviewed. Opening and closing dates for the pool this year will be May 27 and Aug. 27. Advertising for lifeguard positions at the pool has begun.

—Heard from Trefz that Jack Pine has resigned as zoning director. The council voted to approve the appointment of Elmer Hoggatt to replace Pine.

—Voted to pay a city employee called to jury duty for the days required for duty, with the stipulation any stipend received for such duty be signed over to the city.

—Heard negotiations with Wal-Mart are still proceeding.

City pays extra fee for finishing sewage treatment plant plans

Marshall News
Community Affairs File

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Community Affairs File

Business & Industry (WV)

attorney general

Community Affairs File

Velsicol to present waste plan to

Marshall Independent 4/19/94

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

Plans to permanently landfill about 22 million gallons of hazardous waste covering about 22 acres will be presented by Velsicol officials to the Illinois Attorney General's office next week.

Jeff Brown, environmental engineer at Velsicol in Marshall, said the meeting with the Attorney General's office and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency officials has tentatively been slated for Wednesday, April 25 in Springfield.

At issue is the future of the area known as the 5-6 pond. Hazardous materials, contaminated soil and other debris have been consolidated there over the past several years.

Included in the site are by-products from the production of Chlordane and resins at the Marshall facility. The plant no longer landfills any waste materials on-site.

Velsicol has been studying what to do with the waste site and about two years ago developed a stabilization process. The process treats the sticky sludge and turns it into a soil-like substance.

With a permit from the IEPA, crews have been working on the stabilization of the 22 acres on the west side of the site over the past two years. Most of the work was done last year.

At the same time, Velsicol has been working on a plan which would meet the IEPA's requirements to cap the solidified waste in the 5-6 pond.

Negotiations between IEPA and Velsicol have been going on for several

months. A few weeks ago, an agreement on a proposal was reached.

The plan calls for a three-foot-thick clay cap over the 22-acre site. On top of the clay will be six inches of a sandy material and six inches of topsoil. The cap will also be designed with the proper contour and slope to help prevent erosion.

A series of underground monitoring wells has also been proposed to detect any leaks or groundwater contamination from the site. The plan calls for Velsicol to monitor the groundwater for 30 years.

Now that Velsicol and IEPA have reached an agreement on the plan, it is being reviewed by the Attorney General's office, which will represent Velsicol and the IEPA before the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

The pollution control board must approve the landfill plan and amend a current board order which makes Marshall a zero-discharge facility.

Now all the rain water from the Velsicol site is injected into an underground deep well. If the pollution control board approves the new landfill plan, the rain water from the cap will be permitted to drain off the property to the west.

Brown said the IEPA seems pleased with the closure plan that has been developed.

He anticipates a series of meetings will be needed with the Attorney General's office to answer questions they might have about the plan and to give them time to review the "technical package."

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He said next week's meeting will probably be a "getting-acquainted" session. Brown said Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan has "a lot of sensitivity to environmental matters," and he expects his office to review the plan carefully.

Brown, who has been responsible for developing much of the plan, sees it as "unprecedented in a lot of ways." He hopes the plan can become a model for others who have similar type chemical waste ponds or lagoons.

After the Attorney General has approved the plan, it will be submitted to the Illinois Pollution Control Board for final action. At least two hearings will be held during that process, one of which will be in the Marshall area.

Brown would like to have the 5-6 pond

capped by the end of this construction season. "Common sense" indicates that it is beneficial to cap the material as soon as possible. But once the stabilization of the material is completed, the rest of the project may depend on the paperwork.

It will depend, at least in part, on how long it takes the Attorney General's office to review the material and how long the hearing process before the Illinois Pollution Control Board takes.

Brown said Velsicol officials will have to study the risks involved of going ahead with the clay cap before the plan receives final approval. He said it is possible that the cap would have to be removed if one of the agencies wanted a change in the plan after the cap was in place.

EPA water-test results should be ready in a week

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

3-15-84

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency expects test results from samples taken Monday at Velsicol to be completed in about one week, according to Bill Child, deputy director of the state EPA.

Childs said EPA personnel spent about six hours at Velsicol Monday gathering the samples. Because of the weather, there was a short delay getting the samples to the EPA lab. He said the samples were given a priority rating for quick analysis.

The EPA decided to take the samples after members of the Greenpeace environmental group entered the Velsicol site last week and capped the end of a culvert. Two members also used a rubber raft and floated out on a lagoon at the site.

Jeff Barrett-Howard, a spokesman

for Greenpeace, said they had capped the culvert because tests taken from samples obtained recently at the site showed high contamination levels of by-products from the plant's operation.

However, Velsicol officials said the pipe had nothing to do with their operation and drained from an area near the railroad track.

Child said EPA officials sampled water in all the nearby creeks last summer, including the water flowing through the culvert. He said the culvert was one of two on the site that carried water running in a ditch across the Velsicol site.

Those tests showed low levels of Chlordane contamination, which one "would expect in that area." He said the contamination could have been the result of a railroad tank-car spill 20

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Community Affairs File

Continued from Page 1

years ago or a residue from the time Chlordane was used in agriculture to control rootworms.

The tests taken Monday were to compare the content of the water as it entered Velsicol property and then as it drained out of the culvert.

He said if there are any differences, the matter would be investigated. Child said in the past, Velsicol has been very good about correcting problems brought to their attention.

It is possible, Child said last week, that a leak or crack has developed somewhere and contaminants are entering the culvert. He pointed out "I don't have their (Greenpeace) evidence," about the contamination.

However, Wednesday afternoon Child said he had received a copy of Greenpeace's analysis and found it did not show any evidence of "Chlordane per se."

He said their tests only showed evidence of "Chlordane-like" chemicals, which includes "hundreds" of different possibilities.

He said many of the corn pesticides and herbicides currently used in cornfields in the area could have been the chemicals which showed up on the Greenpeace analysis. He said those farm chemicals break down in six to seven months, while it

takes Chlordane much longer to break down.

He called the Greenpeace tests "questionable," and said they are not the type that would hold up in court.

Child said the Velsicol plant is under orders by the Illinois Pollution Control Board to operate as a zero-discharge facility. That means nothing can be discharged into the environment from the site.

As far as the "5-6 pond" is concerned, Child said the state EPA expects to complete its internal review of the "closure plan" by Thursday, March 22 and that Velsicol and the EPA would discuss the plan on Friday, March 23.

The "5-6 pond" contains waste material from the manufacture of resins at the site several years ago. The resins were used to manufacture about 150 products, such as paint, according to Child, and the operation was dropped due to economic considerations.

Child said there was also a solid waste dump at the site at one time and old car bodies and metal beams are in the pond, which covers

about 22 acres.

It is this pond and waste material that earned the Velsicol site the No. 3 priority for Superfund cleanup in Illinois.

Child said Velsicol submitted a plan to clean up the site about two years ago; the plan is now entering its final phase.

The plan calls for the solidification of the material on the site. The solid material will then be topped with a three-foot-thick impervious layered cap.

The plan also calls for monitoring the ground water in the area. If any contaminants beyond a certain "background" level are detected, then the contaminated water will have to be pumped into the plant's deep-well on site.

Child said from his experience at the Marshall plant, the solidification process seemed to be working. It is about 90 percent complete at this time.

Child said he thought the "stabilization process is going very well." He said the solid waste appears to set up well and is "extremely good about holding in place" and

not leaching.

Velsicol has used a combination of fly ash, cement and "trade secrets" to solidify the wastes. In any case, Child said the solid wastes will be easier to manage than sludges.

At this point, Child said the plan "appears like it has a good chance of working."

After Velsicol and the EPA have agreed upon the closure plan for the site, Child said the action will move to two fronts.

One, a public meeting will be held in the Marshall area to explain and discuss the plan. Child said the EPA wants the plan to meet the expectations of the resident of the area.

At the same time, the plan will also go to the Illinois Attorney General's office which will prepare a case to present before the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

The pollution control board has placed Velsicol under a "zero-discharge" order, which means it cannot release any material, including rain water, from the site.

Under the plan to cap the 5-6 pond, the rainwater

which falls on the three-foot cap would drain off the site. Child said the Illinois Pollution Control Board will have to grant a waiver for this drainage before the plan can be put into effect.

The plan will also be under review by the U.S. EPA. Child said they will be seeking for the plant the "public blessing" from the people of Marshall and a "legal blessing" from the U.S. EPA.

Even if the plan is approved, Child said it will not relieve Velsicol of any of its responsibility for the site. He said they will be required to monitor the groundwater for future contamination.

He also said if Velsicol ever leaves the site, the state will have a plan to continue the monitoring process.

To accomplish the goal of being a zero-discharge plant, Velsicol has a "deep well" 2,700 ft. deep which carries discharges from the facility into a natural underground structure.

Child said these underground structures are made of impervious materials, such as sandstone, and are capped with

materials such as slate to prevent the water from leaving the structure.

Since Velsicol cannot release any materials into the environment, even the rain water and snow melt cannot leave the site and must be pumped down the well. Child said 99.9 percent of the liquid pumped into the well is water.

Project still 4/26/84 complies with EPA regulations

By Michael Case
Staff Writer

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City pays extra fee for finishing sewage treatment plant plans

Marshall Independent
Community Affairs File

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Community Affairs File

Business & Industry (wv)

Chemical company wins safety award

TS DEC 13 1984

By Dick Robinson
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The Velsicol Chemical Corp. plant, Marshall, Ill., has done it again; safety seems to be a way of life with the firm's 89 employees.

The local manufacturing facility completed its fourth year without a lost-time accident Dec. 10. This accomplishment represents 671,000 work hours without an incident resulting in lost time.

"It happens here because everybody in the plant looks out for the other person," plant manager Tom H. Capps said.

Capps and Donald W. Burkett,

president of Chemical and Atomic Workers International Local 7641, accepted a plaque on behalf of the employees from Vernon J. "Bud" Baarman, chairman of Velsicol's executive safety and health committee.

Marshall employees are very much a part of Velsicol's accomplishments in the field of safety and employee health, Baarman said.

Velsicol made a commitment to worker safety in 1978. The company recently recorded 3.5 million employee work hours without one lost-time injury, making Velsicol the top chemical company in safety performance, Baarman said.

Earlier this year, Velsicol re-

ceived the prestigious Lammot DuPont Safety Award. It marked the third consecutive year Velsicol led the chemical industry in reduction of lost-time incidents among companies of its size.

Without being specific, Baarman hinted that the Marshall plant might be in position to handle a new product. The local employees' safety record and work to improve the site has prepared both workers and the facility for a new product, he said. Velsicol has four new products on the drawing boards, according to Baarman.

The local plant is one of eight manufacturing facilities worldwide which Velsicol operates.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library

Illinois EPA gives Velsicol clean bill

MAR 20 1984

By Dick Robinson
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has found the Velsicol Chemical Corp. operates well within prescribed safety standards and doesn't discharge chlordane from its Marshall, Ill., plant or allow wastes to flow into a nearby stream.

Thomas Capps, Velsicol's plant manager, said the test results were the same as found and reported to governmental agencies for several years. Samples taken from above the plant, next to the facility and downstream showed no change in chemical composition. That indicates there is no discharge coming from the plant, Capps said.

William Child, an EPA spokesman, said four samples taken at various locations near the plant indicate the presense of chlordane at 0.5 parts per billion, well below the acceptable levels.

"What we did find was traces of corn and soybean pesticides," he said. The chemicals were in the 500-1,000 parts per billion range.

Child said the chemicals didn't come from the plant, but rather was traced to runoff from a farm field. The farm chemicals disappear

quickly in the water, the EPA spokesman said. "It was an example of good old American agriculture," he said.

Members of Green Peace, an environmental group, protested against the company last month, claiming the test samples would show traces of chlordane at 2.4 parts per million. Green Peace's figures were off by a factor of 5,000, Capps said.

The plant manager said Velsicol has maintained an open-door policy with interested persons about how the company handles its wastes. "We would have been cooperative with Green Peace if they had wanted it, but they chose not to talk with us and were only interested in the publicity they could get," he said. "They aren't interested in facts. They are more interested in stirring up public opinion."

Capps said the environmental group had used old problems at the plant in such a manner as to make it appear all were recent problems.

"Since 1973, this has been a zero-discharge plant," Capps said. "Everything is disposed of by deep well injection or with approval to a certified landfill. The test results show we operate well within the law."

Ts DEC 14 1984

Firm making no commitments

Marshall (Estab)
Before Velsicol Chemical Corp. makes any commitment to add a new product line to its Marshall manufacturing plant, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and other governmental bureaus must make some decisions.

Vernon J. "Bud" Baarman, vice president of manufacturing, said the Marshall plant could be in line to handle a new product. A corporate decision to make a change would depend on the future of products currently manufactured here and mostly on how the agencies view efforts to improve the site.

EPA has listed the Marshall

plant number three on its priority list for cleanup funds. Velsicol has spent \$5 million cleaning up the site. Plant manager Tom Capps said company money was used, not public or Superfund money.

Despite the work done at Marshall, the agencies have refused to change the designation. As long as EPA refuses to take any action, Velsicol will make no additional commitment.

"Right now, the ball is in their [EPA] court," Capps said. "We have solved all the problems that were economical and feasible."

The only thing remaining, which has been pending for a long time,

is to have the Illinois EPA sign off on the issue and for Velsicol to get a closure permit.

The manner in which Velsicol handled the cleanup was a technical and proper solution, Capps said, "and its time to sign off." He said a major problem in getting EPA or IEPA to agree to Velsicol's solution is that the agencies constantly change personnel. With the frequent turnover, agency officials are reluctant to say the job is complete, according to Capps.

"It's frustrating to say the least," Capps said.

— Dick Robinson

Community Affairs File

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Community Affairs File Business + Industry
S NOV 1 1982 (w.v.)
NOV 1 1982

Three Veliscol workers receive honors for 40 years service

By DICK ROBINSON
Staff Writer

MARSHALL, Ill. — Velsicol's top management was on hand for the local plant's annual meeting of the 25-Year Club last week. Three long-time employees received special recognition for 40 years of service to the chemical company.

John Shonk, Lenwood Volk and Dean Hutchens received engraved watches for 40 years of service.

T.H. Capp, plant manager, chaired the meeting of nearly 100 25-Year Club members, which includes active and retired employees. The Marshall plants employees approximately 100 persons.

D.O. Detmer, industrial relations, said the Marshall plant was opened in 1935. There five persons on the payroll with 40 or more years of service. There are four retired persons in the 25-Year Club who have at least 40 years with company.

Detmer estimated the average length of employment is more than 20 years, and the average age of an employee is in the low 50s.

The plant had a small reduction in staff in 1981, and since that time, only two or three persons have resigned, according to Detmer.

Capp said the Marshall plant is being upgraded to prepare for what might come along in the way of new products. The Marshall upgrading is part of a two to three-year plan to consolidate the facility. "When it is complete, we will be prepared for opportunities," Capp said.

Michael Moskow, who became president and chief executive officer in June, told the club Velsicol has made considerable progress in several areas — including ant safety environmental control and an increased portion of the chemical market areas.

Richard Bernardoni, president of the Marshall Chamber of Commerce, said he would like to see Velsicol's plant here grow.

Moskow responded with, "I too, would like to see growth at Marshall. The plant is important to Marshall, and the Marshall plant is important to Vesicol."

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File

Velsicol donations hit \$240,000 mark

DEC 24 1984

Business + Industry
In 1984 Velsicol Chemical Corp. donated more than \$240,000 to six farm commodity organizations to expand the markets for corn, wheat, beef, pork, cotton and real dairy foods. The program will be continued in 1985.

Initiated in 1983, the chemical company donated 50 cents for every gallon of Velsicol herbicide sold and reported in the 1984 season. Farmers and ranchers completed ballots at their agriculture chemical dealerships to determine which commodity organization would receive the funds.

Commodity organizations participating in Velsicol's program include: American Dairy Association; Cotton Inc.; National Association of Wheat Growers; National Corn Growers Association, National Cattlemen's Association and

Community Affairs File (W.O.)
National Pork Producers Council.

"Because of the good response by farmers to the program, we were able to donate \$249,887 to six commodity groups," Dale Miller, director of marketing and sales at Velsicol, said. "We hope to exceed that figure in the program's second year."

The American Soybean Association will join the group of participating organizations in 1985. ASA plans to use Velsicol funds to develop a soybean food product to meet the dietary and taste requirements of the people of India. The ultimate goal is to increase the demand for U.S. soybeans and soy products.

Velsicol has a chemical plant at Marshall, Ill., as part of its worldwide network of manufacturing facilities.

Community Affairs File

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T DEC 13 1982

Business + Industry (66.V)

Community Affairs File

Velsicol completes two years without lost-time injury

MARSHALL, Ill. — Velsicol Chemical Corp. employees achieved a milestone Friday when they completed two years without a lost work day due to an occupational injury.

T.H. Capps, plant manager, congratulated employees for their double achievement in establishing a good safety record and for the pride they have shown in the accomplishment. Capps said all employees would receive a special gift from the company to commemorate the special day.

V.J. "Bud" Baarman, vice president of manufacturing and chairman of the corporate executive safety and health committee, told the employees this was the first time the Marshall plant had gone two years without a

lost-time accident. Earlier this year, Velsicol received the chemical industry's national Lamont DuPont Safety Award for outstanding accomplishments in plant safety. The award is coveted throughout the chemical industry.

Baarman said it was his opinion the improvement Marshall employees made in their safety record was a major factor in the corporation winning the national award.

"This is something all employees have done together," Baarman said.

Completing two years without a lost-time accident, is another milestone, according to Baarman. It puts Marshall on the map which helps to improve the corporate image.

Two years without a lost-time accident equates to nearly 350,000 staff-hours, said Del Detmer, in charge of personnel and safety.

Capps and his staff are involved in safety in the facility through their participation in the Central Safety Committee. Garry Dean is the plant's safety coordinator and reports to Detmer. A plant and management safety team makes monthly inspections of the facility. Managers conduct monthly safety meetings with supervisors. The supervisors in turn conduct monthly safety meetings with their employees.

The Marshall plant has several safety incentive programs which add to employee awareness of safety.

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Firm proposes using microbes to 'eat' toxic waste at Velsicol

MARSHALL INDEPENDENT

By Michael Case
Staff Writer

4/9/84

Community Affairs File

"Bugs" too tiny to be seen may be brought into the Marshall area to do the dirty work of toxic-waste cleanup.

Malcolm Peacock of Polybac was in Marshall last week to talk to officials at the Velsicol Chemical Corporation plant about the possibility of his firm's "bugs" being used to clean up the last of the resins in the soil in the plant's No. 2 pond, as well as to clean up the oily water separator in the oil recovery pit.

Polybac takes the position that current methods of hazardous-waste disposal merely put off the problem rather than solving it. Solidification of wastes, land-filling, incineration or ocean dumping just shifts the problem, according to the firm. Why "dispose" of hazardous wastes, the firm asks, when they can be removed from the environment permanently by mutant, adapted bacteria at a fraction of the cost?

Polybac says most organic chemicals on the EPA restricted list are biodegradable by properly selected, adapted and mutated strains of naturally-occurring bacteria.

"Bacteria can eat virtually anything, given enough time," Peacock said. "We make specialized bacteria for practical purposes."

The bacteria Polybac uses are not a danger to the environment and, in fact, break down dangerous chemicals into naturally occurring elements such as carbon dioxide and water, according to

the company. Strains are tested for safety. The microbes, when used, digest the contaminant they have been selected to clean up.

Polybac has been active in waste cleanup for several years. Their "bugs" were used to clean up the oil spill in the North Sea and substantially disposed of the oil after only 25 days, Peacock said. He added that most of the world's oil spills are now cleaned up by bacterial treatment, which takes a little longer than excavation but is much less expensive and more effective.

One of the limitations of "bugs" is that they can be used only in the summer, as cold winter weather stops their action, he said. This can delay cleanup of oil spills sometimes for months. Polybac has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up an oil spill in Southern Illinois beginning next week.

Some of the sites that have used Polybac in the past included a gasoline cleanup and ground-water cleanup in Central Ohio; a creosote cleanup in St. Louis; an oil lagoon near Indianapolis; an oil spill in Belgium; and a chlorinated organics spill in Chicago last year.

One of the most interesting new uses of bacteria clean-up is in the realm of municipal wastes, Peacock said. The firm serves a half-dozen municipal plants in Illinois, and claims to provide the service at a fraction of the cost of other methods.

REFERENCE
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Environmental group charges contamination in protest at plant

No arrests made in raft incident at Velsicol

By Michael Case
Staff Writer

Greenpeace Great Lakes, a citizens' environmental group, Thursday plugged what they termed an "outflow drain" at the Velsicol Chemical Corp. plant in Marshall to protest what they called chlordane contamination at the plant.

After plugging the drain, two members of the group, Carrie Kruse and Ken Wallace, both of Chicago, floated in a raft on a waste pond until they were told Clark County Sheriff's Department officials would remove them.

A spokesman for the sheriff's department said no one was arrested and that Velsicol was apparently not pressing any charges against the protesters.

Jeff Barrett-Howard, of the Greenpeace office in Chicago, said the group's members in Marshall had expected to be arrested and were prepared for such action.

"This is the most poisonous, toxic plant in Illinois," said Greenpeace spokesman Joyce Rosenthal. "Chlordane has contaminated all the ground, air and water around their plant here in Marshall. We want them to begin a cleanup operation immediately before they poison all of Marshall's residents."

The Greenpeace group charges Velsicol, the only manufacturer of Chlordane in the United States, is discharging toxic waste into groundwater and air around the plant through seepages and leaks from the ponds and pits on the plant site.

They said an unlined lagoon on Velsicol property, used for more than 30 years to contain liquids and sludges destined for disposal, is today one of the worst federal "Superfund" sites in Illinois.

Greenpeace says new technology developed by Velsicol that would solidify the waste and cap the pond will "neither remove nor de-toxify the

millions of gallons of hazardous waste the pond contains."

They also claim hazardous liquids have been discharged illegally into creeks running through surrounding farmland and into the Wabash River.

They say that in 1980 Velsicol dumped solid waste at an illegal waste disposal site two miles northeast of the Marshall facility.

"The groundwater beneath the Marshall plant is contaminated," said Rosenthal, "and that water can contaminate all of Marshall's water."

Barrett-Howard, in Chicago, said

"We've been very open about what we are doing out here....We don't have anything to hide."

Tom Capps
Velsicol plant manager

Greenpeace obtained samples from the Marshall site recently and that tests from the overfall drain showed high levels of contamination with byproducts of the chemicals produced at the site.

However, Velsicol claims the drain pipe is from a nearby railroad and is not part of the Velsicol operation.

The Greenpeace protesters requested an immediate "debate" with Velsicol officials concerning the plant operations. Velsicol officials said they couldn't meet with Greenpeace members this morning, but would consider a debate later.

Velsicol's plant manager, Tom Capps, said he was surprised and curious about why the Greenpeace members were at the plant.

"I admit that a few years ago we did have a discharge problem here," he said, "but we've addressed those unacceptable practices and stopped them several years ago. We've approached the problem in a technically competent and responsible manner. Now we are permitted as a zero-discharge plant by the EPA."

He said a zero-discharge plant discharges no toxic waste into the environment.

The solidification plan Velsicol plant has developed, he said, has been approved by the EPA; he called it one the most exciting developments in handling hazardous waste.

"They're (the EPA) working very closely with us on this," Capps said, "and are even looking into the possibility of using this procedure at the Greenup site."

The Marshall plant was given a number-three priority for Superfund cleanup by the Illinois EPA. Velsicol officials at that time said they were "outraged" by the rating, stating the works towards correcting the problem was already underway when the state EPA issued its list.

"I don't know where the Greenpeace people got their information or how they developed it, but the compilation of information is erroneous and so are their conclusions. They are making conclusions out of conclusions."

Plant environmental engineer Mike Poe added he thought the group was more against production of Chlordane itself than against the disposal practices at Velsicol.

"I think they just want to shut us down," he said.

Capps agreed and said that though Chlordane could be dangerous if used incorrectly, any chemical had that potential. He said the use of Chlordane had been challenged again and again by environmental groups and that states, including Illinois and Massachusetts, had investigated it thoroughly.

The state concluded that if the chemical is used correctly it is the best means of eliminating termites and that the positive effects outweigh the potential dangers.

"We've been very open about what we are doing out here," Capps said. "Just yesterday Bill Child, the deputy director of the Illinois EPA, was out here observing required pressure testing of deep-well system and he looked at the stabilization project. He was satisfied with what we are doing."

He added that the plant is open at anytime to anyone wants to tour the facilities and that different regulating agencies, including the federal and Illinois EPAs, have watched the progress at the plant quite closely.

"We don't have anything to hide," he said.



Above, Greenpeace protesters carried their rubber raft away from the Velsicol facility after their early-Thursday-morning protest. Eleven members of the international environmental group participated in the protest; two of them, at right, held up a banner. No charges were filed, and they left the site peacefully.

Staff photos by Michael Case



Business + Industry (Webster Valley) Community Affairs File

Veliscol receives coveted DuPont

By DICK ROBINSON
Staff Writer

MARSHALL, Ill. — Velsicol Chemical Corp., which has had a production plant here since 1935, distinguished itself in the industry when the company was named the recipient of a highly regarded and much-sought after award.

Velsicol has been named the winner of the Lammot DuPont Safety Award for 1982.

Michael Moskow, who became president and chief operating officer of Velsicol earlier this year, was at

the local plant last week to talk with employees about the award, which he described as a major accomplishment.

In 1950, the Chemical Manufacturing Association, a collection of chemical companies, accepted Lamlot DuPont's offer to provide an annual safety award for member firms showing the greatest improvement in safety for a two-year period.

T.H. Capp, Marshall plant manager, said he believes the company could win the award two straight years, but rules prevent the same

firm from winning more than once in a five-year period.

The award, known as the Lamlot DuPont Safety Award, "is to inspire member companies to improve and



Business

Safety Award

effectuate the industrial safety programs to prevent personal injuries."

Moskow said the National Safety Council recently listed the chemical industry as the safest of the more than 40 types of industrial categories in the nation. "Not only do you work in the safest industry in the country," Moskow said to employees, "you work in the safest company in that industry."

Two awards are presented annually. One goes to firms with less than two million man-hours of exposure annually, and the other is for firms with more than two million man-hours of exposure. The award is given to a member in each group which established the greatest percentage reduction in its average accident frequency rate for two consecutive years, compared to its average frequency rate for the immediate three years.

The Lamlot DuPont Award has been recognized as the top award for safety in the chemical industry, and it is perhaps one of the most coveted awards in the business.

Velsicol received the 1982 award for having the greatest reduction in accident frequency rate of member companies in the industry. The firm led eligible firms in the more than two million man-hours category.

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On hand Tuesday for the safety award program at Velsicol were, from the left, Richard Bernardoni, president of the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce; Gene Berry, international representative of OCAW union; Don

Burkett, president of the local chapter of the OCAW union, holding the plaque; Marshall Mayor Ted Trefz; Tom Capps, plant manager for Velsicol at Marshall; and John Fossett, corporate safety manager.

Velsicol awards

Continued from Page 1

John Jossett, corporate safety manager, told the employees they had "beaten the odds." He said the employees showed they "know their jobs" and "what it is like to protect yourself and your fellow employee."

He made the presentation of the plaque to Don Burkett, president of the local chapter of the OCAW union.

Also on hand for the occasion Tuesday were Gene Berry, representative of the OCAW union; Marshall Mayor Ted Trefz; and Marshall Area Chamber of Com-

merce President Richard Bernardoni.

Velsicol has an elaborate system of monthly and quarterly safety programs which involve management as well as the hourly employees.

Velsicol employs about 90 people and makes Chlordane, a pesticide.

Velsicol

Business + Industry (WV)

Marshall Independent 5/1/86

Velsicol's production, employment have changed over plant's long history

Editor's note: This is another in a continuing series about the existing industry in Clark County. The series is being done in cooperation with the Clark County Economic Development Corp.

By Randy Harrison
Staff Writer

Fifty years ago, Velsicol Chemical Corporation opened its first plant in Marshall. It produced heavy solvents for the preparation of pesticides and resins for use in making varnish, plastics and adhesives.

Today, Velsicol continues to make chemicals for use in pesticides.

According to Tom Capps, plant manager, Velsicol was founded by the Regenstein family from Chicago. Construction on the Marshall facility began in 1935 and the plant opened in 1936.

The Regensteins chose Marshall because it was close to the sources of the raw material the company would need, oil fields and refineries. It also had good highway and railroad connections.

In the early years solvents and resins were the prime products of the plant. A by-product of producing these was core oil, an oil used in foundries.

Production of resin reached a peak in 1967. At that time employment at the plant also reached a peak. There were 270 employees.

However in 1979, because of "competitive considerations," production of resin was stopped and all the associated equipment was removed from the plant. After that, operations at the plant were consolidated.

From 1941 to 1960, Velsicol also made the chemicals naphthalene, benzene and toluene. A major

customer for these chemicals was the U.S. government, especially during World War II when they were used in the war effort. Benzene remained in production until the mid-1960s.

The sole product of the plant now is the chemical Chlordane, used to make termiticides at Velsicol's Memphis facilities. It is also used by other companies in manufacturing polyester and resins.

Velsicol first made Chlordane in 1946 and production reached a peak in 1975.

According to Capps, a low purity petro-feedstock (the basic ingredient) called Dicyclopentadrene is purified by thermocracking. The fuel oil elements are removed from the feedstock.

The purified DCPD is then mixed with chlorine and caustic soda to make intermediate products that

are in turn used to make Chlordane.

The local Velsicol plant also has the capabilities to purify DCPD for sale to other companies, but does not do so now. However, Capps said the company is preparing to start doing it soon. He says that it plans to sell "some moderate quantities" this year.

Velsicol Chemical Corp. is in the process of restructuring. For years it was a part of Northwest Industries. Last year, Northwest was bought out by William Farley of Farley Metals. The company changed its name to Farley/Northwest Industries and sold off many of its holdings.

Velsicol's agricultural chemical division was sold to Sandos Ltd. of Switzerland and is now doing business as VS Crop Protection

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Community Affairs File

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Corp.

Although this sale did not affect the local plant, it did reduce the number of Velsicol facilities. Beside the Marshall and Memphis plants, there are only two others — one in Chattanooga and one in Bay Port, Tex. Capps said the Chattanooga plant may soon be divested as well.

Capps also said there are activities under way could enable top management to purchase the company from Farley/Northwest.

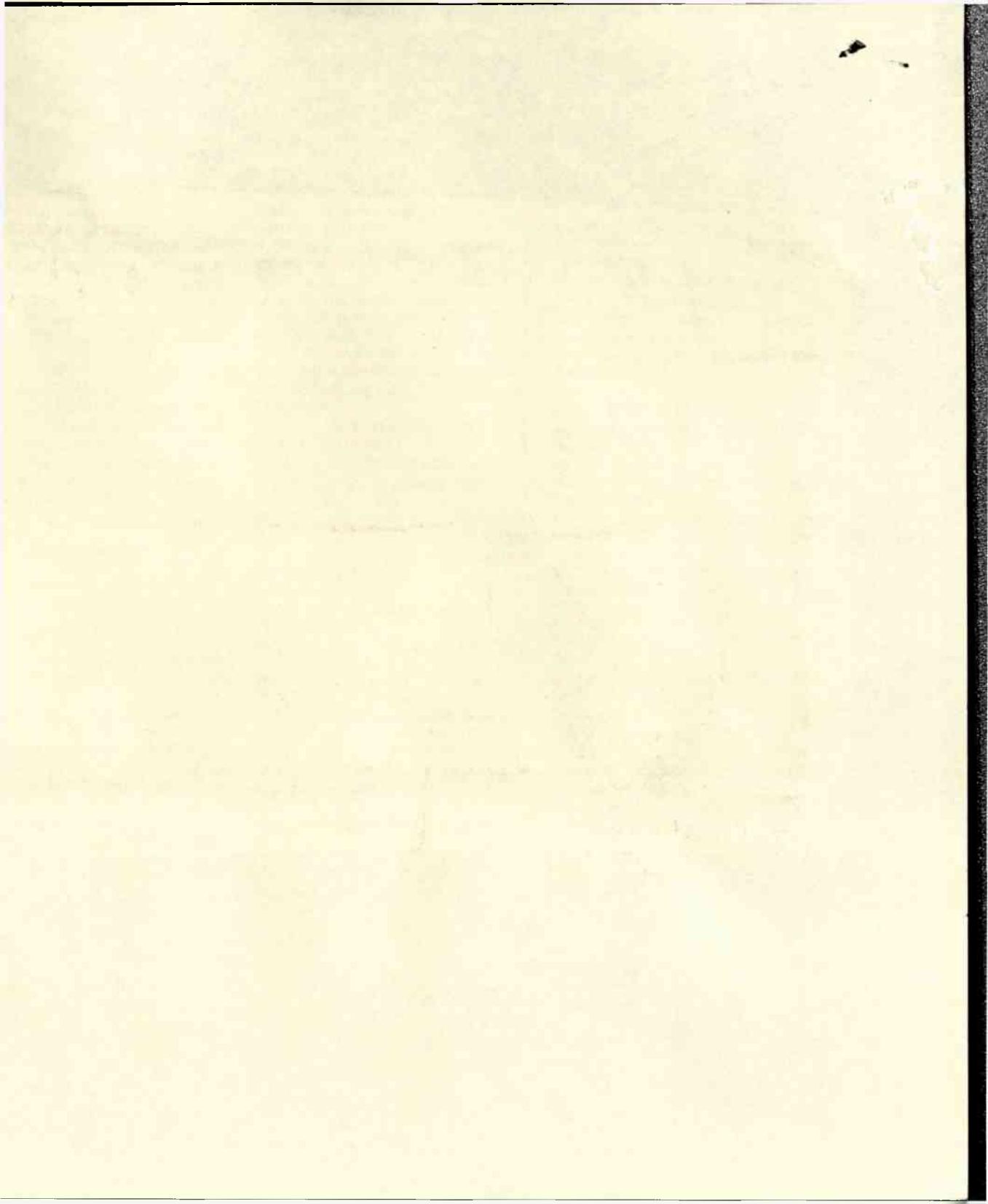
The Marshall Velsicol plant sets on 270 acres of land, 150 acres of which are annually cultivated for corn and soybeans.

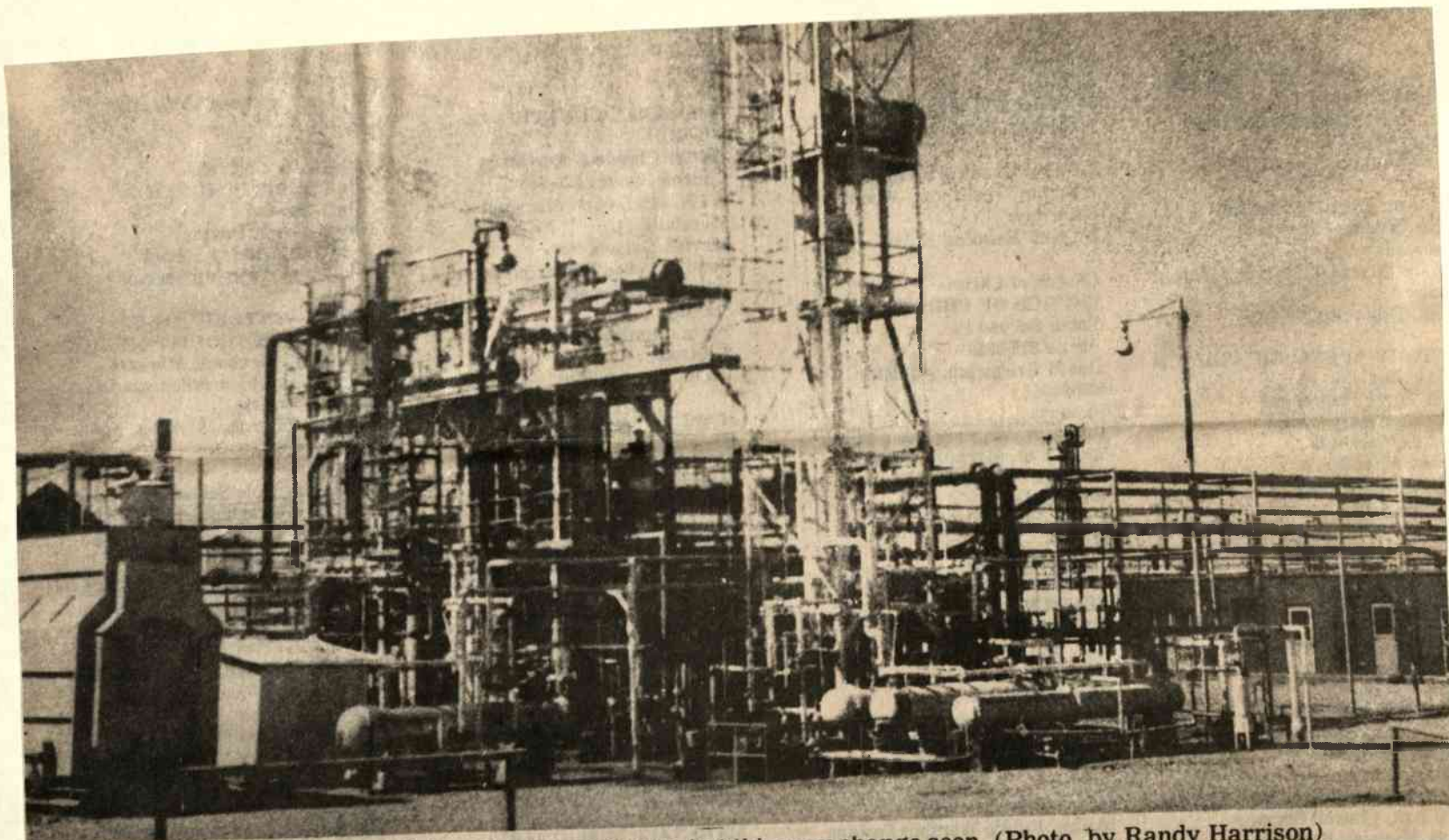
The company employs 75 workers. Many of the employees have been with Velsicol for more than 30 years, and some have been there more than 40 years.

"We have been fortunate in having a very high quality, stable labor force," he says.

Velsicol also supports several community activities and organizations, such as youth and educational groups. It donated to the Marshall Pool Restoration Fund and supports the effort to upgrade health care services in the community.

It also contributes to scholarship funds for area colleges such as Eastern Illinois University, Lake Land Community College and Lincoln Trail College.





This thermocracking tower at Velsicol is not now in use, but this may change soon. (Photo by Randy Harrison)

Bus + Ind (WV)

Velsicol out of line in its attack: Judge

Ts OCT 02 1986

JACKSON, Tenn. (AP) — An Illinois chemical company that poisoned residential water wells in Tennessee is out of line in its latest attack on a \$22 million pollution judgment, a federal judge says.

Among other motions attacking the judgment, Velsicol Chemical Co. argued that Judge Odell Horton of U.S. District Court should have decided how much money five principal plaintiffs would receive under a punitive award.

Velsicol argued that Horton's order for damages to residents living near a chemical dump at the Hardeman County community of Toone were unclear on how much each resident should receive.

Without that breakdown, Velsicol said, Horton's judgment is not final and the company is hindered in filing an appeal.

"This court is astounded that Velsicol would ... adopt such a position," Horton said.

He said the residents, who filed a \$2.5 billion suit against Velsicol in 1978, have "endured hardships and extreme suffering."

"Their lives and way of life were totally disrupted by the wanton, willful, oppressive and grossly negligent conduct of Velsicol. These people need relief," Horton wrote Monday as he rejected the motion.

Velsicol Chemical Co. also has a plant at Marshall, Ill.

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Community Affairs File

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Velsicol hits new milestone without injury

Business & Industry

DEC 12 1986

By Dick Robinson
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Velsicol Chemical Corp. employees in Marshall, Ill., reached a milestone Wednesday when they completed six years without a job-related time-loss accident or injury.

The string of accident-free days began Dec. 10, 1980, just before T.H. Capps was appointed plant manager.

Ron Bonato, a director from corporate headquarters in Rosemont, Ill., was in Marshall on Thursday to pay tribute to the workers. Tom Burkett accepted a commemorative gift on behalf of the employees.

The six-year accident-free mark means the Marshall plant has gone 2,191 days, or nearly 974,000 man-hours, without a time-loss mishap, Bonato said.

The Marshall plant stresses safety, Bonato said.

The odds of staying accident free becomes more difficult, Capps said. He urged workers to continue their

efforts for safety because the 1-millionth man-hour without an accident would be in late February.

Meanwhile, company President Art Segel was not present at Wednesday's observance. He was involved in a possible change of company ownership.

If the deal is consummated, it would be the second time in nearly 18 months the concern has changed hands.

William Farley bought Velsicol, a division of Northwest Industries, in August 1985 in a leveraged buyout amounting to \$1.2 billion.

Bonato said a new Velsicol would be built on many of the philosophies of the old Velsicol.

The local plant is adjusting to current conditions in the business, Capps said, and technical people are involved in developing new products. Obsolete equipment at the local plant was removed and in some cases replaced, he said.

Like Bonato, Capps couldn't discuss company plans in detail, but he expressed confidence that Velsicol is on the threshold of a great future.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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Velsicol's Marshall plant important, new owner says

By Dick Robinson
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

DEC 19 1986

MARSHALL, Ill. — Velsicol Chemical Corp. in Marshall is important to the company's growth and development, one of the company's new owners said Thursday.

President Art Segal, a member of the third group to own the company in less than two years, reviewed the operation most of the day Thursday with plant manager Tom Capps.

"The Marshall plant would be very important to the Velsicol management," Segal concluded from that review.

The Marshall plant produces chlordane for the worldwide pest-control market that is centered primarily in the United States and Japan.

"We're sincere about growth,"

Segal said. "Internal problems caused us to contract rather than expand in the past, but the time has come to put our problems behind us and to get on with business."

Segal said that growth in every area is being considered. Profits would fund growth, and Segal believes the company can handle growth and paying its debts.

He wouldn't specify possible growth areas, but he wouldn't rule out acquiring another plant.

Capps and others at the local plant developed one new small product. Segal said it wasn't a world-class item, but it was something to develop.

"We're all chemical industry people, and we will stick to the things we know," Segal said.

Segal was among five executives who bought Velsicol from William Farley last week in a leveraged buyout. He wouldn't say how much

he and his partners paid for the local plant and three other chemical-manufacturing facilities.

Farley had gained control of Velsicol in mid-1985 when the chemical company was a division of Northwest Industries. Farley bought Northwest in a \$1.2 billion leveraged buyout.

Farley disposed of Velsicol's two agricultural chemical plants well in advance of the sale to Segal and his partners.

Segal said a nationwide trend is developing in which companies are being taken over by their own executives, who are willing to make a strong commitment to the future, Segal said.

Velsicol has nearly 500 employees worldwide. In addition to the four U.S. plants, the Rosemont, Ill.-based company has offices in six other countries.

Annual sales approach \$100 million, he said.

Business + Industry (WV)

Community Affairs File

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Velsicol action could be costly

✓ Business and Industry (WI)
By Dick Robinson ^{AUG 12 1987}
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Velsicol Chemical Corp.'s agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency to stop selling chlordane and heptachlor in the United States could affect activity and work at the Marshall, Ill., facility, Plant Manager Thomas Capps said Tuesday.

But, he added, much depends on international sales, which aren't included in the proposal.

Chlordane is the only major product produced in the Marshall plant.

Velsicol agreed to stop selling chlordane and heptachlor while tests are conducted to find new application techniques. Capps emphasized that EPA did not ban the termiticides and the company volunteered to suspend domestic sales "because we are interested in putting the controversy to rest."

EPA was prepared to take

whatever action necessary to curtail use of the termiticides when Velsicol made a proposal a few days ago that led to the agreement to halt domestic sales.

Capps admits the agreement would hurt business at Marshall. "No one knows how much for sure, and we aren't going through any knee-jerk reaction until we have time to size up the international sales situation," he said.

During the past year, Capps and other Velsicol researchers have worked to develop new products that could be manufactured in the Marshall plant. While the work is still in the development stages, Capps said there have been modest shipments of a new commercial product. The product is in the polymar field used in plastics.

Chlordane and its chemical cousin, heptachlor, made at Velsicol's Memphis, Tenn., plant, are classified by EPA as probable causes of cancer. The two are often used as a mixture.

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Velsicol

Business and Industry (W)

Velsicol employees scoff at Chlordane critics

To the Editor:

TS SEP 25 1987

We are employees of Velsicol Chemical Corp. and members of Local 7-641 and 7-641A Oil Chemical Atomic Workers International Union. We are fighting the proposed ban on Chlordane. Chlordane is a pesticide used to control termites.

Environmentalists and others are pressuring the United States Environmental Protection Agency to ban manufacturing of Chlordane. Their allegations are not supported with any scientific facts.

As employees who have manufactured Chlordane for several years (employment ranging from 5 to 42 years), we would be prime candidates for any side effects Chlordane might produce. We haven't had any! Several employees have retired from Velsicol and none have reported any side effects.

Velsicol has conducted numerous scientific and medical tests on health effects of Chlordane. We employees have submitted ourselves for physical examinations to determine if Chlordane is a health hazard. All of these facts have been submitted as physical evidence. Yet those opposing Chlordane ignore these facts.

— Edwin Zachary, employed at Velsicol for 29 years; Duane E. Shumaker, 22 years; Harrold Noyes, 37 years; Otto L. Myles, 32 years; Richard Williams, 22 years; Donald W. Burkett, 23 years; Don E. Snyder, 23

years; R.L. Rodgers, 23 years; Ed Arbuckle, 15 years; Ira Cooper, 36 years; Joe Marrs, 35 years; Fred Kuhn III, 13 years; John Conner, 7 years; Eugene Maurer, 37 years; Richard Myles, 35 years; Earl Smitley, 20 years; Leroy Kemper, 23 years; Charles Murphy, 23 years; Marion J. O'Rourke, 42 years; Dennis A. Lindley, 36 years; Norman Truelove, 17 years; Fred Thornburgh, 18 years; Billie Ray Ulrey, 23 years; Otto Veach, 15 years; Robert L. Beasley, 20 years; Robert Weaver, 36 years; Charles E. Conner, 10 years; George B. Lee, 35 years; Kenneth Low, 36 years; James Butcher, 35 years; Larry Wallace, 21 years; Charles Chapman, 18 years; Gayle Gard, 35 years; Richard C. Newlin, 24 years; Jerry W. Dossett, 6 years; Jerry A. Stephens, 23 years; Ralph Turner, 38 years; Joe Rose, 10 years; Thomas E. Evitt, 14 years; Glenn O. Jones, 17½ years; Carolyn J. Ralston, 9½ years; John D. Ferris, 15 years; Lola Ann Goodwin, 13 years; Brad Crackel, 5 years; Virginia Deisher, 14 years; Janet Angle, 24 years; Jeffrey Brown, 10 years; Robert Laine, 10 years; Carol Davidson, 17 years; Richard Bidwell, 16½ years; Ronald Deisher, 18 years; Eamer Haugh, 21 years; Charles E. Carlton, 15 years; Thomas W. Thornton, 20 years; Michael Kelly, 5 years; and Carl Helton, 8 years.

— Marshall, Ill.

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Community Affairs File

Vicksburg Public Library

Velsicol employees mark 7 years without lost-time accident at plant

V. Business and Industry (W)
By Dick Robinson
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

MARSHALL, Ill. — Velsicol Chemical Corp. employees reached a major milestone Thursday when they completed their seventh consecutive year without a job-related, time-loss accident.

"It's rare in American industry today for any company to go this long without a time-loss accident," Velsicol president Art Segel said. Segel was here for the employees' safety recognition luncheon, which has become an annual affair. "Seven years is just great," he said, "especially when you think about all the things that can happen."

Marshall plant employees have

logged more than 2,560 days without a time-loss accident, Plant Manager Tom Capps said. The Marshall plant has more than 1 million accident-free manhours.

The facility's last reported chargeable mishap was Dec. 10, 1980. Capps was named plant manager shortly after that date, and there hasn't been a time-loss accident during his tenure.

Capps gives all the credit for the plant's safety record to the workers. Its low rate of worker turnover and a mature workforce are two factors that contributed to the safety record.

The average age for a Velsicol employee here is 52 years, with service ranging from eight to 35 years. "A mature workforce takes seriously the business of safety,"

Capps said.

Management's commitment to safety is essential, Segel said. "It says we will take the time and expend the effort to make this safety program work."

With no accidents to analyze, the plant's central safety committee checks near-misses, first-aid cases and unusual incidents, Capps said. Every employee attends a safety meeting each month and there are several one-on-one meetings involving foremen and workers, he said.

Capps said there is a relationship between near-misses and unusual incidents and accidents. Marshall employees work together and look after each other in safety matters, he said.

Velsicol

EPA vs. Velsicol

Company predicts its product will prove safe

Business and Industry (w)

Is DEC 13 1967

By Dick Robinson
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

MARSHALL, Ill. — Government tests will show that controversial termite-control compounds manufactured by Velsicol Chemical Corp. can be used safely, said company president Art Segel.

And chlordane, which is manufactured locally, will remain the standard for the industry, he predicted. Segel said he believes the Environmental Protection Agency will eventually become a supporter of Velsicol rather than an adversary.

Velsicol negotiated an agreement last August with EPA which headed off hearings aimed at banning products containing chlordane and heptachlor. Segel noted Velsicol agreed to halt U.S. sales until the two compounds are proven not to be harmful to

humans.

The test period is expected to take nine months, Segel said. "We were engaged in a very expensive adversary process with EPA, and it didn't seem appropriate to spend huge sums to take on EPA."

With the settlement, EPA stopped short of placing restrictions on compounds already distributed. But inventory still on the shelves was the source of a complaint before EPA last week by the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides.

Tom Capps, manager of Velsicol's local plant, believes there is little chlordane left on the U.S. market.

The sales moratorium came during the first year after a group headed by Segel bought the chemical company. It was not a good time, but Segel said there's never a good time for such an action.

EPA is reviewing test procedures, and Segel had expected to have permission to start testing by Christmas. "Since we haven't heard from them, I guess we won't get started until early January," he said.

Tests are to be conducted at 150 homes. Velsicol must demonstrate that proper outside application can prevent any contamination inside a treated home.

"I would hope they would be satisfied, but I doubt it," Segel said of chlordane critics. "I doubt if our critics will ever be fully satisfied, and that would be a shame if they aren't listening to reason."

"I fully anticipate trips back to various courts in different jurisdictions where we and EPA will be tested by environmental groups."

Chlordane is not just important to Velsicol, Segel said. Velsicol's competitors have five substitutes on the market, but Segel sees

nothing that could replace chlordane as a cost-effective long-lasting way to control termites.

Chlordane was invented in 1944, and became a Velsicol product because the inventor was a distant relative to the chemical company's founder. Velsicol had opened a plant at Marshall, Ill., in 1937, and it became the manufacturing facility for chlordane in 1947.

Velsicol remains the world's only manufacturer of chlordane because others can't duplicate the complex formula, Capps said. "There's a chemical art to the process of making chlordane. It's as much an art as a science. It is so complex, it is not defined by a strict chemical formula."

Velsicol doesn't disclose sales for chlordane and heptachlor, but EPA estimates the annual amount at nearly \$30 million — more than half the U.S. sales of termite-control products.

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Community Affairs File

Velsicol

IEPA Study Finds Few Health Risks At Marshall's Velsicol Chemical Plant

Business and Industry (WU)

By NED JENISON 2/11/88
Beacon News Staff Writer

MARSHALL—Velsicol's Marshall facility, producer of the termiticide Chlordane, gained all but a full clean bill of health from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as EPA staff members presented findings of a \$1.7 million "remedial investigation" Wednesday night.

The IEPA spokesmen, however, didn't fare quite so well. Members of the audience of about 50 men and women crowded into the Marshall City Council chambers were predominately current or former Velsicol employees. Several characterized the IEPA study, with much of the fieldwork conducted by field members in extensive protective equipment, as "grandstanding," and the study itself an expensive waste of funds.

"It found out what we already know, Velsicol is safe, and we're doing a good job of housekeeping," an employee pointed out.

However the significant—and welcomed—news at the end of almost two hours of background presentations was finding that there is negligible public health risk as a result of the Velsicol operations. What little added risk exists primarily is a residual effect from discharges into a small stream prior to 1973.

This slight danger would come primarily from people eating fish caught in the "unnamed tributary" to East Mill Creek, or by extensive swimming in the waters of the tributary.

And that risk, according to U. S. EPA project manager Susan Louisnathan, was literally "one in a million" added risk factor of acquiring cancer.

The two year "remedial investigation" by Weston, Inc., under contract to the EPA, showed that Velsicol "is a good step toward a clean bill of health," project manager Kurt Neibergall stated "and now we'll work toward solving the minor problems that may exist."

These include a small amount of surface runoff still leaving the manufacturing plant area, and several recommendations for treatment changes within the process area.

These will be spelled out in the next phase of the EPA investigation, when the Feasibility Study is issued. Neibergall said this is due in May, but since previous study deadlines have been missed, Velsicol officials anticipate it could be mid or late summer.

At that time Velsicol will have the option to agree to the recommendations, and perform the engineering and construction required. Or the company may elect to have the IEPA make the improvements. In either case, Velsicol will be expected to pay the costs,

including the current \$1.7 million spent on the Remedial Investigation-Risk Assessment study.

If Velsicol undertakes the project, Neibergall said, the timetable probably would call for design work through the spring of 1989, and construction to be complete in 1990.

Velsicol plant manger Tom Capps said the company was not in a position at this time to comment extensively on the risk assessment findings, since the final draft has not yet been issued. He concurred with IEPA staff members that the state and company are cooperating in the study. "This is not an adversarial situation," Capps said, but in any document as extensive and technical as the RI/FS report "I'm certain we will have some comments to make after we have an opportunity to review it."

The two-hour presentation Wednesday night by seven staff members of the EPA or the engineering company which conducted the study described in detail studies of groundwater, soil, air, stream water and sediment, and fish population for evidence of human health hazards.

It showed, according to Weston project geologist Skip Ricketts, that chemical contamination existed only where it should be expected—within the production area itself or in the material sealed inside the "5/6" pond area which has a clay cap preventing movement of the contaminants. Monitoring of 22 test wells drilled by the IEPA and Weston crews showed no leaching from the storage area, and soil samples from farmland surrounding the plant showed no unusual concentrations of harmful chemicals beyond those normally associated with agricultural use, he reported.

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The fish problem was the closest the IEPA could come to a public health risk, and this was due to the residual effects of spills which settled into the stream bed sediment. Dr. Tom Hornshaw, IEPA environmental toxicologist, explained the food chain that stores contaminants such as alphachlordane or dieldrin found in the fatty tissue of some game fish, like bluegills.

Ms. Louisnathan said the "risk assessment" study was "very conservative" and indicated, statistically, that the risk of acquiring cancer could be increased by two people per million because of the chemicals found in the fish samples. She did not indicate how much fish would have to be eaten for this result. Even that risk could be reduced, Dr. Hornshaw pointed out, by broiling or baking the fish which removes much of the fat in which the contaminants are stored.

The fish scenerio brought an exchange between retired Velsicol employee Jerry Stephens, who stated he had been enjoying fish from that creek "for years," and Neibergall.

"Would you eat the fish?" Stephens asked. "Well, perhaps, if I was hungry," the IEPA project manager admitted, but continued "I think I'd prefer some other, if I had a choice."

The speakers unanimously emphasized that Wednesday night's report, and the study, was to inform the public,

and they agreed with Stephens, "there are risks everywhere."

The study is designed to identify any additional environmental risks to the public, but it is up to the public to determine what it believes is an acceptable level of risk, Ms. Louisnathan explained.

Neibergall also defended the \$1.7 million cost of the study as "really relatively inexpensive for this type of a technical study. We saved quite a bit through cooperation from Velsicol." Bill Hammel, IEPA community relations coordinator, added "We don't try to solve a problem by just throwing money at it. We could have spent millions of dollars before knowing exactly what the problem was. Now we are pleased to know the problems are very minimal."

The IEPA report also was criticized for a "worst case" risk assessment that considered the public health danger should Velsicol abandon the site and

leave it unmanaged and open to trespass. That could increase the surface water contamination flowing across the site, and hazards to persons coming onto the former production area, Ms. Louisnathan said.

At present all production waste water and surface drainage is disposed by deep well injection, and access to the plant is controlled by the company which enforces its own safety regulations for employees and visitors.

"We are not suggesting that Velsicol would walk away from its problems," Neibergall said. "But unfortunately many chemical companies have, nationwide, abandoned hazardous waste sites for one reason or another, and our risk assessment study must consider this possibility as well."

Velsicol is one of 27 Illinois hazardous waste sites which qualified for the initial EPA "Superfund" studies and corrective program. The speakers declined to rank the severity of the Marshall site, based on the investigation,

Daily Lottery

CHICAGO (UPI) — The winning number drawn Wednesday in the Illinois Lottery Daily game was 688. The Pick Four number was 3116. The Lotto 7 number was 4, 5, 11, 12, 16, 23 and 24. The estimated Lotto grand prize for Wednesday's Lotto Seven drawing was \$6 million. The estimated Lotto grand prize for Saturday was \$4 million.

with the others, but admitted there were many others with significantly higher public health risks, both under investigation and awaiting future attention.

The study centered only on public health risks, Neibergall said, not on management of risks to employees, nor on the question of production and use of Chlordane which is the subject of a

separate USEPA study.

Several former and current Velsicol employees brought up the ongoing medical study of all associated with Velsicol which they said had found no increase in health problems based on some 30 years history. "From the way you (the EPA) talk, we should all be dead," Stephens told the IEPA staff.

Velsicol

Velsicol doesn't expect adversity in new ruling

Business and Industry (WI) - Velsicol
FEB 26 1988

By Liz Carver
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Velsicol Chemical Corp. officials don't expect any immediate adverse effects resulting from a federal court ruling Wednesday to ban the production and sale of two pesticides believed to cause cancer.

Velsicol has not been producing the chemicals — chlordane and heptachlor — since August, when it entered into an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to halt production and domestic sales of the chemicals until testing could prove the chemicals were safe, company spokesperson Donna Jennings said Thursday.

A federal District Court judge ruled Wednesday that the EPA ban the sale and manufacture of products by April 15.

An EPA spokesman said the ruling is still too fresh to assess adequately.

"In terms of how we're going to implement [the ruling], we're studying it to try to figure out [its] ramifications," Walter Waldrop of the EPA in Washington, D.C., said.

Velsicol distributes the products to other companies holding licenses to sell products containing the chemical.

Jennings said 197 companies are licensed to sell the products, but only about eight or nine actually are actively selling it.

When the agreement was struck between Velsicol and EPA and chemicals were no longer manufactured, Jennings said, the surplus inventory stock was still being sold.

After the ban is implemented in April, the chemical cannot be manufactured unless it is proven safe by laboratory testing, Waldrop said.

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Community Affairs File

Chlordane won't hurt Velsicol

EPA says commercial sales must stop

Business and Industry (WV) - V
Velsicol Chemical Corp. will not suffer economically from an Environmental Protection Agency order Wednesday to ban further sale or commercial use of the pesticide chlordane, which EPA believes has almost disappeared from the market.

The orders do not apply to homeowners who bought the chemical before the ban takes effect, Donna Jennings, spokeswoman for Velsicol in Chicago, said.

Other people holding inventories of the chemical must dispose of them in accordance with state regulations, EPA warned. It said anyone holding more than a few pounds should consult state authorities or a regional EPA office for disposal advice.

In banning the pest-control product, EPA acted under a District Court's February ruling ordering that the agency ban the sale and manufacture of products containing the chemical by April 15.

EPA believes that chlordane, which is injected into the soil to repel termites, poses an unacceptable risk of cancer even when properly

used.

The agency made an agreement in August with Velsicol, the only manufacturer of chlordane and a related compound, heptachlor, to halt sales while the company conducts new tests.

"We hope to begin [the testing] in the near future," Jennings said. "Right now we are still working on the test protocol . . . it is almost finalized."

Testing would be conducted by pest-control operators selected to apply the chemicals under restrictions requested by EPA, Jennings said. "If they find any [problems], the product is banned. If not, EPA would issue us a new label."

The product label would specify directions for use, Jennings said.

An additional delay in the testing spawned from a disagreement between EPA and Velsicol over whether to release names of homeowners involved in the study.

"We believe the homes must be kept confidential," Jennings said.

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EPA's ban orders include one notice, effective April 15, which applies to 125 pesticide products for which 50 companies already surrendered licenses last year in exchange for permission to sell existing stocks.

The other applies to 10 companies whose licenses EPA suspended for such reasons as failure to respond to a request for data. It will be effective 30 days from whenever the companies receive it.

During that 30 days, a company may request a hearing and, if it does, it may continue to sell the product until a decision is reached.

An advocacy group, the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, sued to force an end to use of existing stocks.

In August, Velsicol's stocks of 110,000 pounds amounted to about two months' supply at then-current usage rates.

EPA said it surveyed all license-holders in December and found only 1,700 pounds, and checks with six retail stores and six retail chains found almost none on the shelves.

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Velsicol

15 JUN 9 1988

Human guinea pigs for chlordane

Business and Industry (B&I) - Velsicol
Velsicol says it isn't so, but it's hard to argue with the assessment that Velsicol and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have agreed to allow human beings to be used as guinea pigs for chlordane.

It's a frightening thought. Who'll be tested? The poor and ignorant? Or the president of Velsicol and the administrator of EPA?

We bet we know, even though EPA and Velsicol are insisting the names of the test families be kept secret.

Chlordane is a termite-killing pesticide manufactured in Marshall, Ill. Its residential use in the United States is banned, but this week EPA approved a plan to test a new method of applying chlordane at 150 or more inhabited, but unidentified, residences.

Chlordane was banned in the U.S. last year because of what the EPA said were scientific "concerns that long-term exposure to low levels of chlordane could pose health risks, including an increased risk of developing cancer."

Velsicol challenged the EPA findings, arguing that chlordane had been used without noticeable ill-effects in American homes for some 40 years. Moreover, fearing the loss of their jobs, Velsicol employees in Marshall signed petitions noting that they had handled the pesticide for years without any sinister side effects.

In answer to Velsicol's appeal, EPA approved this test. Under the terms of the program, chlordane will be applied to termite-infected homes at no expense to the owners. Air inside the homes will be monitored for two years to detect any levels of chlordane.

"This amounts to EPA-sanctioned human testing of a pesticide," said Jay Feldman, coordinator of the National

Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides.

What about that? James Roelofs, EPA's review manager for chlordane, says, "There may be an element of risk, but we have reason to believe it's low."

The reason? A new application method. Roelofs said as a result of the new method of application, "it's possible there won't be any detectable levels" of chlordane that reach the residents inside the test homes.

Possible.

Roelofs admits EPA and Velsicol won't know if the new application method will produce indoor levels of chlordane "until there's been some testing."

Donna Jennings, Velsicol's public affairs manager, said the names of the participating homeowners will be kept secret because "we don't want them harassed."

We suspect, however, that the subjects do not include Jennings or Roelofs or their bosses — or, for that matter, anyone else able to understand and afford an alternative to this free sample.

Feldman says his group wants the names only so it can offer the test families information — not harassment. He said he wants to "notify potential participants of the hazards..."

That, we think, is fair. We don't philosophically approve of human guinea pigs, but we are nonetheless mindful that in the case of diseases some desperate but informed individuals and families have chosen, with mixed success, to try experimental drugs and processes. In the instant case, we believe EPA, Velsicol and Feldman's watchdog agency should go together to each test family and jointly agree that the family fully understands and appreciates what the risks might be. Only then should the chlordane be applied.

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Velsicol

chlordane tests

Watchdog group critical of

Business and Industry (Env) Velsicol

WASHINGTON — In what a watchdog group says is an experiment on humans, the Environmental Protection Agency is allowing a banned termite-killer made by a Marshall, Ill., company to be tested at inhabited dwellings around the nation, The Associated Press reported Tuesday.

Under the plan, at least 150 residences will be treated with chlordane, a pesticide that the EPA says had been used for 40 years to provide termite protection for about 30 million homes in this country.

Velsicol Chemical Corp. of Marshall manufactures the pesticide. Earlier this year, sale of chlordane for residential applications was halted.

Donna Jennings, Velsicol's public affairs

manager, said the company did not consider using unoccupied dwellings because "there's no evidence to say chlordane is a human health hazard."

The pesticide would be applied to the test homes at no expense to the owners. Air inside the homes, the locations of which have not been made public, would be monitored for two years to detect any levels of chlordane.

"This amounts to EPA-sanctioned human testing of a pesticide," said Jay Feldman, national coordinator of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides.

EPA says that detectable levels of chlordane inside houses raised "concerns

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that long-term exposure to low levels of chlordane could pose health risks, including an increased risk of developing cancer" and led to the ban.

In August the EPA and Velsicol reached an agreement to halt chlordane sales by Velsicol until the company could conduct further testing and show that no home involved in the new study had detectable levels of chlordane in its indoor air.

James Roelofs, EPA's review manager for chlordane, said Tuesday that the new tests will involve application methods that are different from the traditional ways chlordane was applied to foil termites.

The chemical will be placed in the

ground around a house or under a concrete slab foundation, rather than being injected into the concrete itself, according to Roelofs.

"There may be an element of risk [to the inhabitants] but we have reason to believe it's low," Roelofs said. "By eliminating pressure injections and any injection inside the house, it's possible there won't be any detectable levels. It's a reasonable expectation."

Roelofs said EPA and Velsicol won't know whether the new application methods will produce detectable indoor levels of chlordane "until there's been some testing."

He said the air-monitoring tests could be conducted at unoccupied dwellings but that this was not proposed by either EPA or Velsicol.

Jennings said Velsicol reached the agreement with EPA rather than face the drawn-out "negative publicity" that could accompany fighting a formal EPA regulatory move against chlordane.

Jennings said the new testing won't begin until the company and EPA settle the issue of whether the names of the participating homeowners will be kept secret.

"We don't want them harassed," she said.

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Velsicol

Business and Industry (W)

Velsicol says 'guinea pig' claim 'wildly misleading'

To the Editor: T s JUN 2 1988

It appears a June 9 editorial, "Human guinea pigs for chlordane," was prompted by a press release issued by a Washington based anti-pesticide group. Unfortunately, much of the information contained in the release was grossly inaccurate and wildly misleading.

This continuing influx of misinformation and speculation clouds the real issue. Regulations must be based on science, not over-zealous theatrics or sensationalistic headlines.

Chlordane has not been banned. Velsicol Chemical Corporation still retains federal registrations for chlordane and heptachlor pending the successful completion of air monitoring studies which were part of the Aug. 11, 1987, agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency.

There is no "secret." In fact, the EPA held a press conference ten months ago publicizing the air-monitoring study. The purpose is to test specific application methods on the structures. Widely published scientific evidence shows that chlordane does not cause serious long-term health effects in humans. A 40-year history of use in 30 million homes without health effects supports that science.

Velsicol insists on the confidentiality of the participants who volunteer their homes for this

study for two reasons: First, the company respects their right to privacy; Second, we must assure no tampering by outside sources. However, confidentiality does not preclude homeowners from receiving the necessary information to make an informed decision. Each homeowner will receive materials that have been approved by the EPA and are written by technical experts and toxicologists. They will also be encouraged to discuss concerns with the pest control operator and seek outside third party opinions. No study will be started until EPA has reviewed this information.

Finally, it was not expected or necessary for Velsicol's Marshall, Ill., plant workers to sign a petition saying they have not experienced health effects from chlordane. Recently updated epidemiology studies from Harvard Researcher Dr. Brian McMahon indicate neither plant workers nor pest control operators have suffered ill health effects. These studies say it all.

The review of regulations belongs in the regulatory and scientific communities. Velsicol believes the science will continue to support the products.

— Donna Jennings
— public affairs manager
— Velsicol Chemical Corp.
— Rosemont, Ill.

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Velsicol

Velsicol To Close Marshall Plant; 40 Workers Affected

Paris 6/22/88
By TAMMY BEAR
Beacon News Staff Writer

MARSHALL—Forty employees of the Velsicol Chemical Company in Marshall will be out of a job Aug. 30 when the company closes its Marshall facility, one of the longest-established industries in the area.

The Marshall workers were informed Tuesday of Velsicol's decision to close the plant because it was no longer feasible to keep it open.

"The plant in Marshall isn't diverse enough to make it viable," according to the Velsicol's manager of public affairs Donna Jennings.

Part of the plant's problem is an agreement made Aug. 11, 1987, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, she said. One of Marshall plant's main products prior to the August agreement was chlordane, a termite-control substance. Chlordane, along with a similar termite-control chemical known as heptachlor, came to the EPA's attention as a possible cancer-causing compound.

Because the Velsicol Chemical Corporation believes that chlordane offers no danger, the company made an agreement with the EPA to stop selling the products in the U.S. until the EPA could conduct a study to prove the safety of the products, according to Jennings. Although the Marshall Velsicol plant still had the international market, U.S. buyers of chlordane made up the majority of the plant's customers.

"We thought this would be a quick way to settle the matter, but the details of the study were more complex and time-consuming than we expected," Jennings said.

This agreement has become the major reason for the plant's closing, according to Jennings. "The Marshall plant just wasn't diversified enough to convert to other production and make up for the loss of chlordane as its major product," she said.

Because of recent events, employees at the plant weren't surprised by the closing but they were shocked the closing is coming so soon.

Production from the Marshall plant will be moved to the Velsicol plant in Memphis, Tenn., where heptachlor is produced, according to Jennings. Even if chlordane is approved by the EPA, it will come too late for the Marshall plant. "Any reopening would be unrealistic after the closing has been finished," Jennings said.

While most of the 40 employees will be laid off as of Aug. 30, a few may remain for a time to continue the closing process, Jennings said.

The Velsicol Corporation did make an attempt to diversify the Marshall plant after the agreement with the EPA was made. The corporation started a monomers unit, according to Jennings,

that was used for products in the commercial development stage. The different product lines, however, failed to bring enough money in to justify the expense of operating the Marshall plant.

This week the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency announced its next public hearing will be July 27 for the final report of the EPA "Superfund" cleanup at Velsicol.

A preliminary hearing earlier this year commended Velsicol for its progress to date on stabilizing and protecting land contaminated by earlier production at the plant. The hearing will open at 6:30 p.m. at the Colonial Kitchen restaurant.

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Business and Industry (HVV) - V

EPA May Hit Velsicol With \$10 Million Bill To Restore Plant Site After Marshall Factory Closes

Paris Beacon - News 9-19-88
MARSHALL (Special)—The Velsicol Chemical Company may have to invest more than \$10 million into an effort to abandon, and restore the 86-acre Marshall plant site.

Velsicol announced earlier this summer it will close the refinery by the end of August. Established in the 1930s, the plant has been the primary production site for the insecticide Chlordane since World War II. Chlordane has been labeled by the Environmental Protection Agency as a possible cancer-

causing agent and sales were voluntarily stopped last year pending further testing for proper application techniques.

Preferred alternatives to reclaim the site after the plant closes have been identified by the state and federal EPA officials supervising an on-site "remedial investigation."

These recommendations are the subject of a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, at the Marshall Colonial Kitchen restaurant. They fol-

low the report of the remedial investigation issued in February, and the preliminary draft of the feasibility study issued June 14, prior to the announcement by Velsicol that the plant would be closed.

The Velsicol management has the option of agreeing to and performing the work contained in the final plan approved by the EPA. Otherwise the EPA will contract the remedial work at the plant site. In either case, Velsicol is expected to pay for the reclamation work estimated in the report to cost more than \$9 million. The remedial investigation that formed the background for the recommendations cost an estimated \$1.7 million—also to be reimbursed by Velsicol.

The study and recommendations are all part of the USEPA "Superfund" project designed to restore some of the nation's most severe hazardous waste dumps or contaminated plant sites.

The proposed work plan to safeguard the area and return it to at least limited future use calls for four major activities:

—Excavation of all contaminated soils and sediments with optimum soil removal in plant area "hotspots" which become accessible after factory buildings and some roadways are removed. The study estimates 80,000 cubic yards of soil will be stripped, primarily in the present plant production area and in the former settling ponds known as the 2 and 4 ponds.

—Backfilling the excavated areas with clean clay, grading, and establishing a cover crop.

—Storing the contaminated soil on top of the present "5/6 pond" storage area. This 26-acre pond previously had been capped as a contaminated soils area under an earlier EPA cleanup project.

—Extend the leachate collection system of tiles on the west edge of the area, and collection of contaminated leachate (groundwater flowing out of the 5/6 pond area) by installing two interceptor trench systems.

—Treatment of the collected groundwater through a new plant to be built on the site, and then discharging it into the tributary of East Mill Creek.

The "5/6" pond area and its added soil would have a new "multi-media" cap installed on top to prevent movement of the contaminated soil, or infiltration by rainwater or groundwater. The tentative design calls for two feet of topsoil to be placed over a new drainage system installed on top of a synthetic liner, which in turn is placed over the compacted clay "cap" surrounding the contaminated soil.

The entire area will continued to be monitored for an indefinite time, using groundwater test wells and the flow from the treatment facility.

The EPA plan also calls for some restriction of access to the site in the future through fencing. It would limit future use of the immediate land area by restrictions recorded on the land dead.

Cleanup of the earth within the plant site will be made much easier with the proposed removal of the buildings by Velsicol, the report notes. However it adds that the proposed use of the deep injection wells to dispose of future leachate from the contaminated soils storage area is unlikely, in light of Velsicol's announced intention of closing and plugging these wells.

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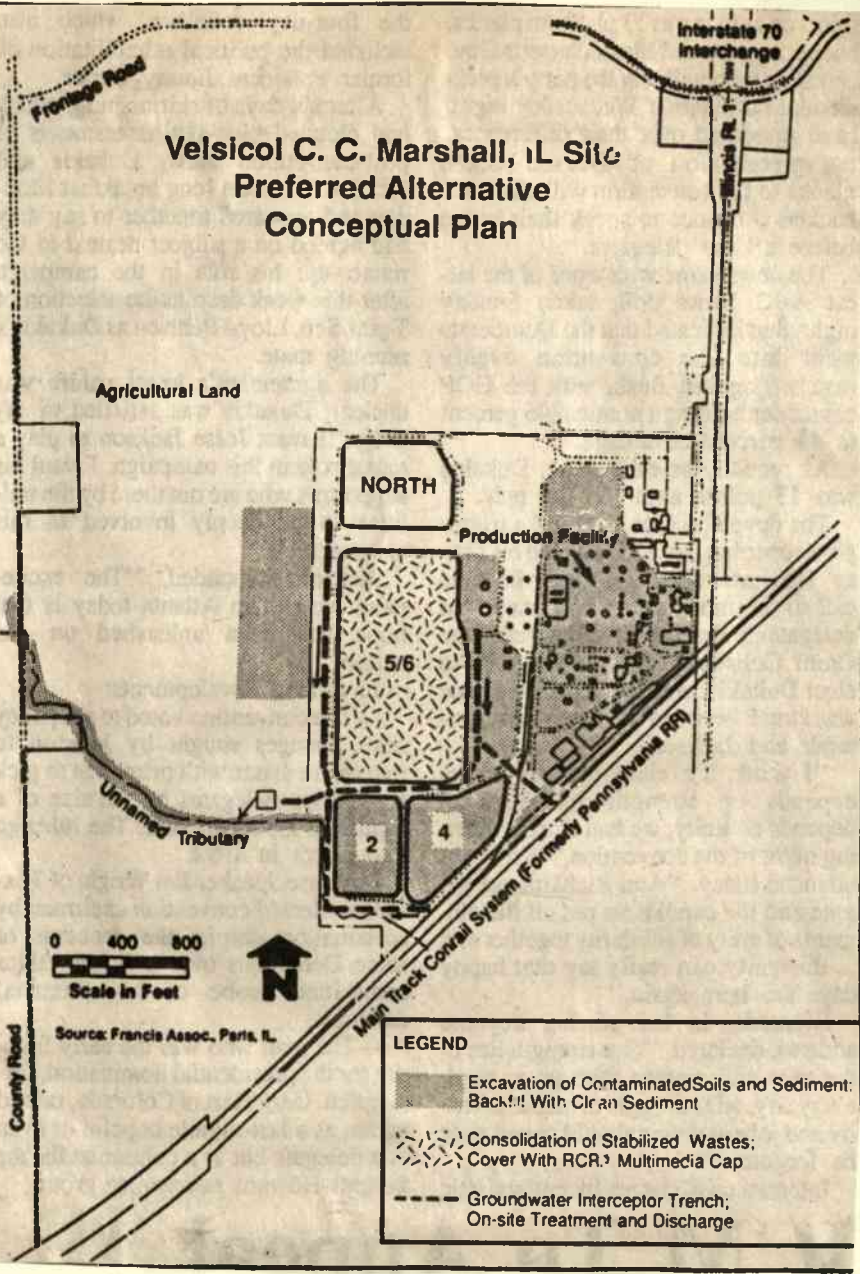
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The EPA is to issue its Record of Decision on or before Sept. 30. This will specify the scope and extend of the remedial work for which Velsicol will be responsible. By Dec. 11 the Illinois and U. S. EPA will decide if the remedial design and action will be undertaken by Velsicol, or by the government, with Velsicol paying the bill.

Written comments on the proposed alternatives which will be presented at the public hearing may be submitted until Aug. 12 and included in the hearing record. Comments also may be made orally or in writing at the hearing next week. If desired, written comments may be mailed to John Williams, Agency Hearing Officer, Illinois EPA, Box 19276, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62794.

At the February hearing on the remedial investigation, when it was anticipated that Velsicol would continue to operate the plant for the present, investigators essentially gave the present plant operations a clean bill of health, showing no significant health problems or hazardous waste endangering the public. The closest they could come to a problem was residual contamination by chlordane and some heavy metals in the "unnamed tributary" of Mill Creek just west of the plant, a result of some discharges from the plant nearly 20 years ago.

Velsicol C. C. Marshall, IL Site Preferred Alternative Conceptual Plan



LEGEND

- Excavation of Contaminated Soils and Sediment; Backfill With Clean Sediment
- Consolidation of Stabilized Wastes; Cover With RCR's Multimedia Cap
- Groundwater Interceptor Trench; On-site Treatment and Discharge

Nothing left for Dirty Six

By Kelly Porter

Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

SEP 05 1988

Business and Industry
(WV)-Velsicol

MARSHALL, Ill. — They call themselves The Dirty Six.

They were the last six members of Local 7-641 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union representing employees at Velsicol Chemical Corp.

And on Tuesday they were disbanded. Permanently.

"It's just an expression that we've begun to use these last couple of weeks," said union president Jerry Stephens. "We're the last ones to go. We're the ones who can't be helped by the company. No retirement, no job placement, no nothing."

Stephens' story goes something like this:

On June 20, he had a job as a maintenance mechanic at the Marshall plant. On June 21, he didn't.

"It was over just like that," he said, snapping his fingers. "That's about all there was to it."

That was the day that employees at the chemical plant were told they no longer had jobs. Some were offered early retirement packages. Others weren't. Stephens was one of the others.

He's 47. And he's too young to qualify for retirement, he said plant officials told him.

But he believes he's too old — too old to find another job.

"What kind of company is going to hire me?" the West Terre Haute resident asked about himself during an interview at his former work site. "I know I've got a lot of good years left in me, but they don't. They want somebody who will spend their life at their company, and I only have about 20 years of service left in me in their eyes. Some deal, huh?"

Larry Wallace is a 47-year-old Marshall resident with 23 years of service under his belt at Velsicol.

He, too, is one of The Dirty Six. He, too, is too young to qualify for retirement benefits at the chemical plant. And he, too, believes he is over the hill in terms of being able to find another job in his area of expertise.

Wallace was one of about 200 workers over the past 41 years who helped make chlordane at Velsicol.

His job description became a thing of the past when Velsicol officials decided it wasn't economically feasible to continue producing the chemical that the Environmental Protection Agency described as hazardous to people's health.

"I don't look unhealthy, do I?" Wallace asked. "I've been making this stuff for years, and just look where it got me. I'm not dead, I'm out of work."

Velsicol entered an agreement with the U.S. EPA in 1987 to suspend sales of chlordane and heptachlor in the United States as of April 15, 1988. Neither the U.S. EPA nor Illinois EPA required Velsicol to halt production. The suspension was restricted to U.S. sales only — overseas sale of chlordane was still allowed.

But Tom Capps, plant manager at Marshall, said those sales weren't enough to make production of the chemical lucrative for Velsicol in Marshall.

"We've not given up the registration of chlordane," Capps said. "And we've not given up the name. We just won't produce it here anymore."

But Wallace and Stephens don't care about names and restrictions and international markets.

They care about themselves, their families and whether or not there will be food on the table next month.

"The EPA has stuck it to the people in general on this one," Stephens said. "They run everything out of this country that they possibly can, and it's got to stop somewhere."

"This area is becoming nothing but service-oriented anymore. About the only job we could go to if we want to stay in this area is slinging burgers," he said.

Stephens and Wallace said the average employee at Velsicol made about \$10 an hour. They don't have high hopes about ever making that kind of money again, they said.

"I have no idea where I'm going from here," Wallace said. "Most of us, I don't think, have really thought about what we're going to do."

Stephens agreed, saying, "It's a big let down, and I've gotten mad at everyone over this."

"First you develop a kind of hatred for the people you work for, and then you feel sorry for yourself," he said. "After that you just don't care, and then you get sick."

Wallace and Stephens each received severance pay for the loss of their jobs. Stephens said after Uncle Sam dipped into the money pot, however, he would end up with about two weeks pay.

Now that the plant is officially closed, Capps has handed over the keys to an environmental construction group.

Eventually, the plant will be dismantled and demolished, Capps said. The equipment will be disposed of, and the area will be cleared.

"You won't even know we were here," Stephens said of the clean-up plans. "It will just be flat land. What a tribute to a lifetime of service."

Wigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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Velsicol

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Community Affairs File

Sale of Velsicol Chemical Corp. doesn't include Marshall plant

BUSTIND-NV

APR 1 1986 Community Affairs File

Velsicol Chemical Corp.'s Marshall, Ill., plant was not part of an announced sale to a Swiss chemical company.

The Marshall plant and four other Velsicol manufacturing facilities will continue to operate under Farley/Northwest Industries and not be acquired by Sandoz Ltd., Sandoz spokesperson Kathryn Brown said Monday.

Sandoz only bought Velsicol's agricultural chemical business with plants in Mexico and Beaumont, Texas. The new company will be known as VS Crop Protection Corp.

The pest-control and specialty-chemical manufacturing plants — of which the Marshall facility is a part — was not involved in the

sale.

Velsicol's Marshall plant employs 90 workers. Plant manager T.H. Capps was unavailable for comment Monday.

The possibility of Velsicol's sale started shortly after William F. Farley bought Northwest Industries for \$1.4 billion in one of the bigger leveraged buyouts ever recorded. Northwest manufactured chemicals, underwear, batteries and electrical products.

Farley changed the name to Farley/Northwest. He paid \$1.4 billion for a corporation with estimated 1985 sales of \$1.4 billion. He leveraged \$70 million from another company, Farley Metals, and put it into Northwest as cash equity.

Northwest was \$1.2 billion in debt after the buyout, compared to \$410 million before the April sale.

Business Week said in September: The sale of Velsicol could ease Farley/Northwest's debt burden.

Velsicol's operating earnings for the first half of 1985 was \$18.1 million on sales of \$118.2 million. Earnings were down 36 percent from the first half of 1984.

Northwest's total first half 1985 earnings were \$68.3 million. After the sale to Farley, the interest payments for 1985's second half were \$79.4 million. Farley predicted earning for the second half of 1985 would reach \$117.3 million.

Community Affairs File

Business + Industry (w)

EPA begins Velsicol study

Marshall Independent 5/6/86

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency announced today the start of geophysical investigations at the Velsicol Chemical Plant in Marshall. These investigations are designed to gather information in preparation for an extensive study planned for the fall of 1986.

As part of the ongoing remedial investigation at the site, an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency consultant will begin a geophysical investigation of the plant site in early May. This geophysical investigation includes electromagnetic surveys and seismic surveys. An electromagnetic survey measures the differences of electrical conductivity in the soil and groundwater. The electrical conductivity can be affected by substances such as chlorides which are used at the plant. Information obtained from the electromagnetic survey will be used in determining the placement of additional groundwater monitoring wells.

The seismic surveys use sound waves generated by a series of small charges (similar to shotgun shells) to determine the depth of bedrock beneath the surface. A map of the bedrock surface can be generated using this data in combination with well drillings into the bedrock.

This current set of tests is expected to be concluded during the month of May.

The 28 groundwater wells installed in the fall of 1985 are scheduled to be sampled in late May and early June. These wells are designed for collecting water samples at different depths to aid in determining the rate and direction of groundwater flow and the presence or absence of groundwater contamination. A limited number of soil samples will also be collected for analysis at that time.

The results of the geophysical investigation, the initial groundwater monitoring and the soil sample

analysis will guide the next extensive phase of the investigation which is expected to begin in the early fall of 1986. A third round of field work will follow late in 1986. The remedial investigation summarizing the field work results is expected in the spring of 1987. The study is being conducted by the engineering consultant firm of Roy F. Weston, Inc. of Bannockburn, Illinois, under contract to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The Velsicol Chemical Corporation's Marshall facility was constructed in the 1930's to manufacture resins and commercial solvents. An agricultural line producing chlordane was added in 1946. In 1982, the plant was identified as a potential Superfund site because of past releases of hazardous substances to the environment and the storage of hazardous waste on site.

Velsicol

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Vigo County Public Library

Marshall plant's history is a 'before and after' tale

MARSHALL INDEPENDENT

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

5/7/84

The Velsicol Chemical Corporation built its first plant nearly 50 years ago in Marshall.

Since then, the Marshall facility has had a positive impact on Clark County's economy, while at the same time raising several environmental and health questions—questions to which Velsicol started seeking answers only after management changes in 1978.

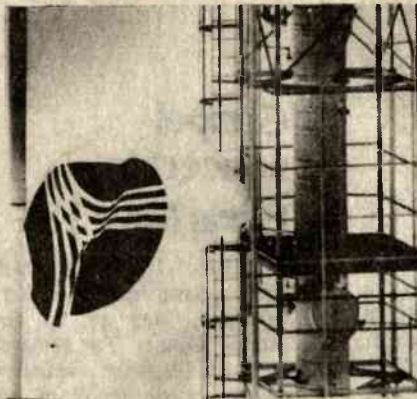
Velsicol got its start in the chemical production business in Clark County at its current site on the north side of Marshall. Joseph Regenstein Sr., a chemistry professor, built the plant in 1935-36.

With the aid the Marshall Chamber of Commerce and local businessmen, the plant site was chosen and a water supply arranged. Marshall-area workers were used to build the various pipe structures, tanks and trenches at the plant.

The Marshall site was chosen because it was close to major lines of transportation—two major highways and two railroads—and because it was centrally located among major Midwest cities such as St. Louis, Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville.

When the plant first opened, it made resins, which were used in paint-type products. Later commercial solvents were add-

UNDERSTANDING VELSICOL



FIRST OF SIX PARTS

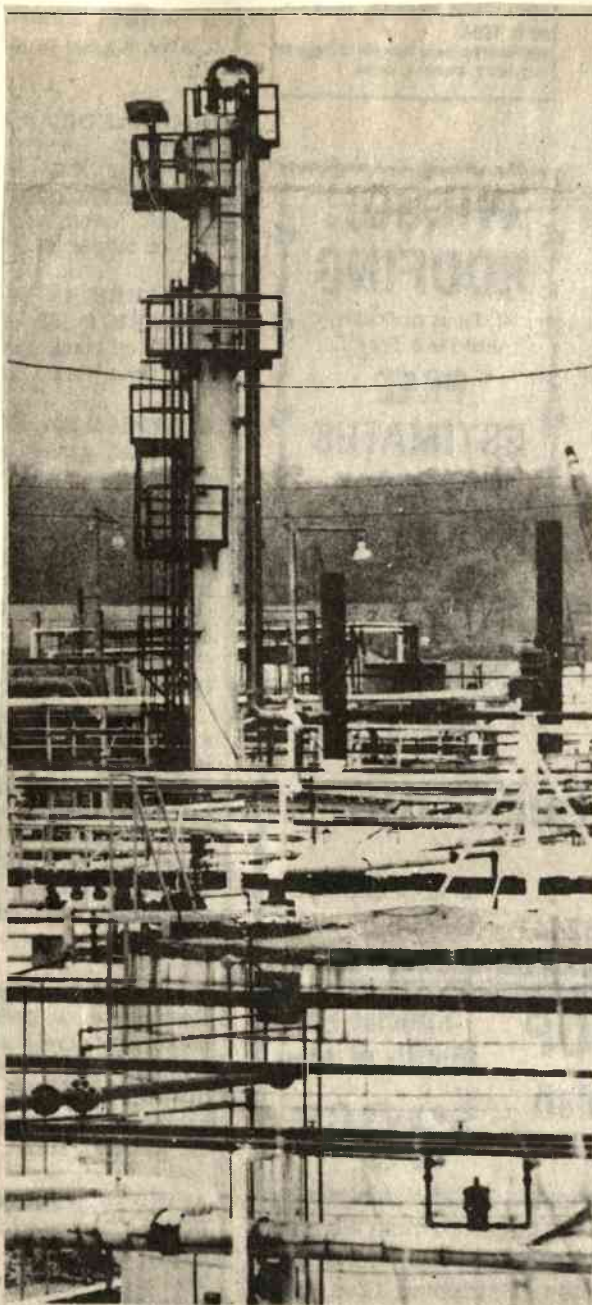
ed to the operation.

During World War II, the plant produced toluene for the government; the chemical was used to make TNT.

The plant started making Chlordane around 1946-47. The product was researched and developed by Velsicol; it was developed both as a pesticide, for termite control, and

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Community Affairs File



as an agricultural insecticide. In 1978, an agreement was reached by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to phase out the agricultural use of Chlordane in the United States in five years.

Although Velsicol is now the only major producer of Chlordane, that was not always the case. Some Velsicol officials left the Chicago-based company, taking the knowledge of Velsicol's operation with them, and opened a chemical plant in Denver, Colo.

Lawsuits followed. In the end, Shell Oil Co. produced Chlordane for a while, but paid a royalty to Velsicol for the use of its technology.

Velsicol continued to produce both Chlordane and resins at Marshall for several years. Many of the resins were made from by-products of the Chlordane operation.

Many of the visible parts of the operation—the numerous tanks and pipes which can be seen from Illinois 1 and Interstate 70—were used in the resins operation.

Around 1980, the company determined that the resins operation was no longer economical. Now Chlordane is the only product produced at the Marshall Velsicol facility.

As environmental concerns began receiving national attention in the late 1970s, Velsicol realized it would have to spend more time and money in this area.

As with many chemical plants started earlier in this century, the knowledge that led to the environmental concerns of the 1970s was not present during Velsicol's first years.

But as increasingly tough environmental questions were raised, Velsicol was faced with either cleaning up its act or getting out of the chemical business.

Tom Capps, Marshall plant manager since 1981, said "new philosophy" on environment and safety concerns came when Velsicol's parent company, Northwest Industries, put

continued on page 3

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VELSICOL

Continued from page 1

Howard Beasley in charge of Velsicol in 1978.

The corporation structure was changed to reflect new emphasis on environmental concerns. The firm hired former EPA officials to guide it down the right environmental paths.

Among those was Jack Rademacher, director of Region V of the U.S. EPA. He was named vice president in charge of environmental, health and regulatory affairs for Velsicol.

Locally, Jeff Brown was brought to the Marshall facility as environmental manager. Although he didn't like what he saw when he first visited the plant, today Brown has scrapbooks in his office with "before and after" pictures showing the recent renovations and improvements at the site.

As new emphasis was placed on the environment, ditches were replaced with cement-lined trenches. Spills were cleaned up. Landscaping and gravel were used to help prevent puddling of water on the site. Generally, the facility was cleaned up and the operations made more efficient.

Bill Child of the Illinois EPA, who directly oversees the environmental projects at the plant for the agency, said Velsicol has been "extremely cooperative....in the last four or five years."

For 40 years, he said, Velsicol was in the business of making and selling a product. He said Velsicol was known as a "hardball player" when it came to environmental concerns.

But in recent years, he said, Velsicol has

become increasingly aware that it "must deal with the residuals" of its production process.

"They have been willing to undertake any remedial measures we have asked then to undertake," Child said, and he added they have taken several remedial actions in recent years.

Child said the problems come with the product. Whenever someone purchases a bottle of Chlordane to put around the foundation of his house, "he buys a little bit of Velsicol" and its problems.

In the past few years, Velsicol has decided to tackle the problem of what to do with its waste materials, some of which were hazardous by-products of the chemical operations at the plant.

Velsicol agreed in 1973 with an order from the Illinois Pollution Control Board to be a "zero-discharge" facility. This order meant that nothing, including rain water and snow melt, could leave the site and be discharged into the environment. On an 86-acre site, that translated into the need to dispose of a lot of storm water.

Velsicol had to come to terms with its wastes—wastes which included an accumulation of more than 40 years worth of various hazardous and solid wastes, wastes generated every day in the production of Chlordane, and storm water, which was potentially contaminated.

Basically, Velsicol has handled its waste in three ways: landfill and/or lagoons, deep well injection, and shipment off-site to a licensed disposal firm.

Over the next three weeks, the Marshall Independent will be taking a look at those disposal methods, as well as the health and safety aspects of the operation and the plant's role in the local economy.

NEXT: An in-depth look at what Velsicol intends to do with the 22-acre "5-6 pond," which contains hazardous wastes.

Waco County Public Library

Marshall (Illinois)

Community Affairs File

Plant's '5-6 pond' has been focus of EPA attention, company's stabilization efforts

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

In nearly 50 years of producing chemicals, the Velsicol plant in Marshall accumulated a large amount of sludge contaminated with hazardous materials.

Over the years, these materials became a big problem for the plant. The longer the waste remained as a liquid in unlined ponds, the greater the chances for groundwater contamination.

As environmental concerns grew—both inside and outside the corporation—plant officials realized that a long-term solution was needed to deal with this huge amount of hazardous waste.

Starting in the 1970s, Velsicol began consolidating the waste sludges that had accumulated in the various ponds. Eventually, the sludges were combined into a 22-acre site known as "pond 5-6." This site also included an eight-acre scrap yard.

Later, when Velsicol began renovating the plant and addressing environmental concerns, wastes and contaminated soils from the cleanup were also added to the 5-6 pond area.

Since around 1980, no newly-generated waste has been added to the 5-6 site. Wastes now produced, such as the "hex mud" from producing Chlordane, are shipped off-site where it is disposed of by firms licensed by the EPA.

But even so, 22 million gallons of sticky sludge covered the large area on the west side of the facility. This is the site listed as the No. 3 priority on the Illinois Superfund list by the Environmental Protection Agency.

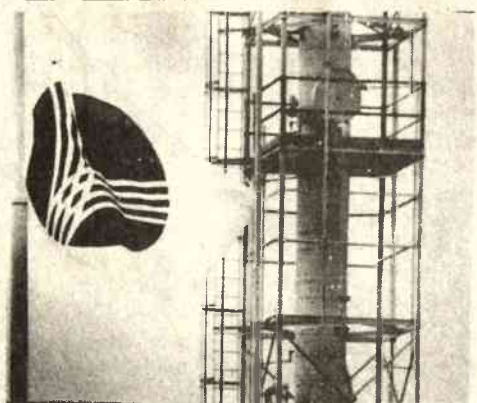
Jeff Brown, the plant's environmental manager, said his tests show the sludge in the 5-6 pond is 50 percent water, 40 percent clay and 10 percent organics. He said the actual percentages vary in different areas, but were accurate as an overall average.

Brown said more than \$1 million was spent over a four and one-half year period trying to determine what to do with the sludge at the site. The sludge is made up of by-products of the former resins operation and some by-products from the Chlordane operation.

During that time, money was spent on groundwater studies, beefing up the levees around the pond, stabilization tests and research and design.

Brown said several methods were tried that ended up not being feasible. One problem was that if the sludge was moved for treatment, it created a bad odor problem.

UNDERSTANDING VELSICOL



SECOND OF SIX PARTS

However in the summer of 1982, Velsicol officials started testing a solidification process which treated the sludge in place, thus reducing the odor problem.

Brown said while the process may not be an answer for all sludge ponds, it has worked well at the site in Marshall. (See related story.)

About 90 percent of the 22-acre site was stabilized last summer and work is expected to be completed early this summer, weather permitting.

Velsicol has been working with Illinois EPA officials on a plan to close the 5-6 pond.

Recently the IEPA approved the "closure plan" for the site, which calls for a special cap to cover the stabilized sludge.

The plan calls for three feet of clay, six inches of sand and six inches of topsoil to be placed over the hazardous sludge. The specially contoured cap is designed to prevent erosion problems.

Velsicol will seek modification of an existing order from the Illinois Pollution Control Board to let rainwater and snow melt

run off the cap. That water should not be contaminated.

Eliminating the large 5-6 pond from the area in which stormwater must be retained (as required under Velsicol's designation as a zero-discharge facility) will reduce the load on the disposal well at the site by 20 to 25 percent, according to Aware Engineering Co. in a study done for Velsicol.

Bill Child, Velsicol project manager for the Illinois EPA, said how quickly Velsicol is able to put the cap on the landfill depends greatly on what Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan's office thinks about the plan.

The attorney general must represent Velsicol and the Illinois EPA before the pollution control board. If the attorney general is satisfied with the technical side of the plan, then it will probably be approved quickly.

But if the attorney general seeks changes or more technical data, then Velsicol probably won't meet its goal of capping the 5-6 pond this year.

Child said Velsicol has mentioned the possibility of putting a thin temporary cap over the site if the master plan isn't approved quickly. That would "hold down emissions" from the site, which is thought to be a major contributor to the "Velsicol odor."

However, Child said that proposal was speculative and that the IEPA is permitting Velsicol only to stabilize the waste. Child defended stabilization, saying it is "necessary for proper handling of the material...regardless of what you do with it."

The closure plan also calls for drilling 22 to 24 tests wells on the west side of the site and two on the east to monitor the groundwater flow. Tests have shown that the groundwater moves west.

Eight wells will actively monitor the site and the other wells can be used later if needed. The plan calls for Velsicol to be responsible for monitoring the groundwater for the next 30 years.

Child said the elaborate groundwater

continued on page 8

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VELSICOL

Continued from page 1

testing will allow plant officials and the EPA to determine any movement of groundwater contamination. The groundwater moves west between 10 and 25 feet per year at the site.

Brown said monitoring wells around the facility now have shown little groundwater contamination except for the immediate area of the lagoons and the 5-6 pond. Even a creek that runs near the ponds has shown no contamination, according to Brown and EPA studies.

Child said tests have shown groundwater contamination only in the waste-handling areas of the plant. He said groundwater contamination is "nowhere close to Velsicol's property borders." He added that people who live in the area have city water.

Where there is groundwater contamination, it is evidenced by high levels of chlorides and measurable chlorinated hydrocarbons, according to Aware Engineers.

Child said the plant is located in a good area for landfill. The soil is mostly clay, which tends to hold material in place well, and groundwater movement in the area is slow.

Marshall residents will have an opportunity to comment on closing the landfill at a public hearing planned before final approval is given.

Velsicol markets stabilizing process

MARSHALL — Velsicol is so pleased with the results of stabilizing the 5-6 pond that it is marketing the process for other companies with similar waste problems.

Velsicol has published a brochure, "We Found the Key," which describes the process and contains pictures of work done at Marshall.

The brochure says the process offers "high density, low permeability, low expansion ratio and low cost."

The brochure gives the following account of the process:

"The sludge ponds contained nearly every type of waste disposed from the manufacturing facility over a greater than 40-year period, including organic chemicals, resins, oils and water, in a homogeneous mass.

"In a typical sludge-pond stabilization program, the reagents are delivered by truck and stockpiled outside the actual waste site. The reagents are readily available as needed, and the possibility of delivery-truck contamination is eliminated.

"The reagents are loaded onto project dump trucks and taken to the mixing area. When the material is dumped near the mixing area, a dozer pushes it near the sludge and a dragline or backhoe is used to mix it into the sludge. Already the consistency of the sludge changes considerably.

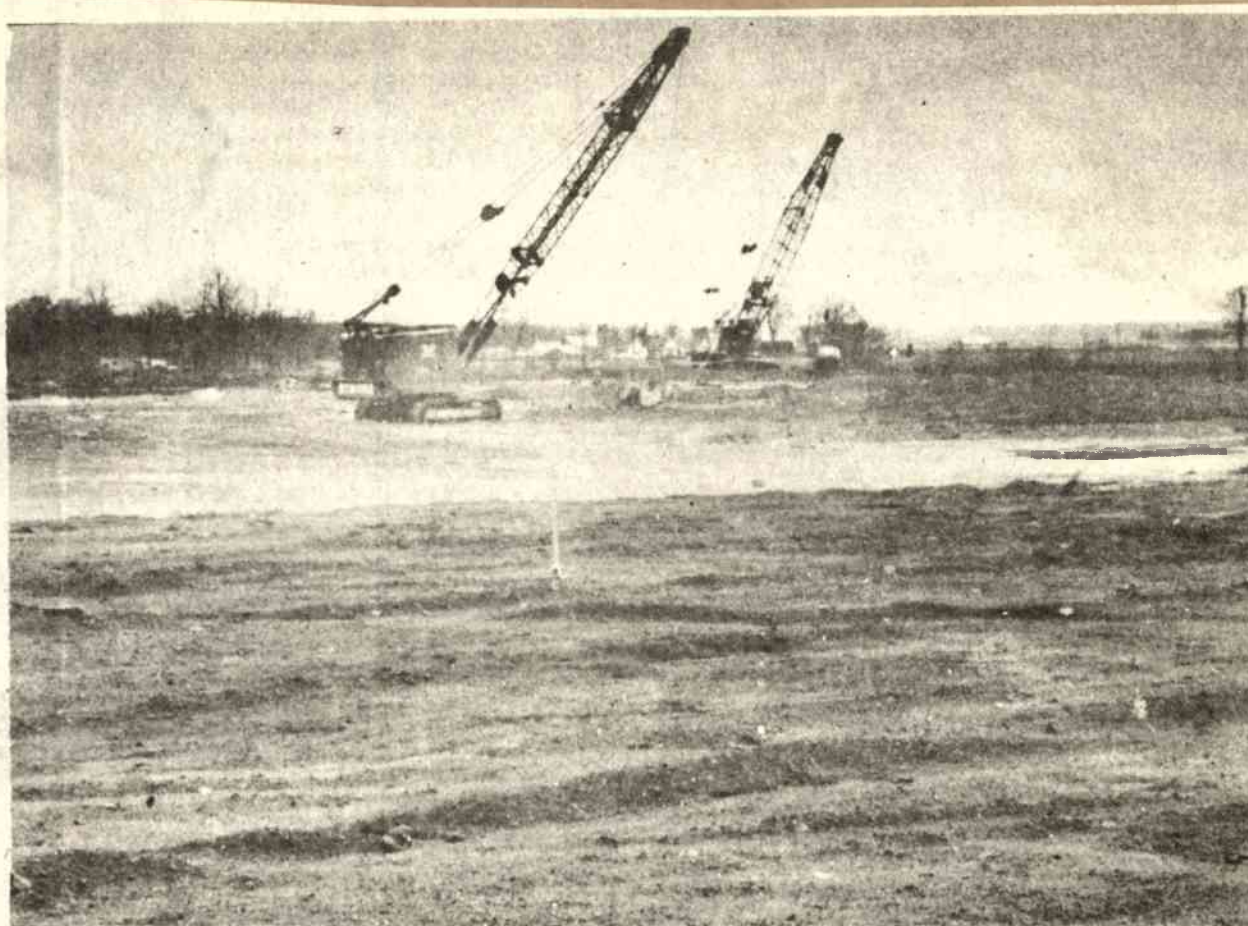
"Next, Portland cement is applied through

a pressure hose connected to a specially designed cyclone separator. Using centrifugal force, the device separates the cement from the pressurized air, minimizing cement dust during the application.

"The amount of cement applied varies to accommodate the depth of the sludge being treated. The backhoe digs all the way down to the bottom of the pond to assure that the reagents are mixed thoroughly and there are not small pools of untreated sludge.

"Once the materials have been thoroughly mixed, the sludge is stabilized to a substance much like heavy clay. In two days, it will be stable enough to drive loaded equipment on."

NEXT: An in-depth look at the deep-well injection of hazardous wastes by Velsicol in Marshall.



The solidification project at the Velsicol 5-6 pond site, pictured above, is nearly complete.

Staff photo by Greg Gravemier

THE DEEP WELL

Much of plant's liquid waste goes 2,700 feet below Earth's surface

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

Marshall Independent
5/14/84

Twenty years ago, the Velsicol plant in Marshall drilled Illinois' first deep well for waste injection.

Since then, deep-well injections have become more common in the United States, although there are only nine in Illinois—including two in Marshall.

Much of the deep-well technology came from injecting brine water from oil wells back into the ground. The wells are more common in states with a history of oil exploration.

Most literature on deep wells says they can be safe if the proper site is selected and if precautions are taken. Although the method is cheaper than most alternatives and few problems have been reported with deep wells, some environmentalists say deep wells are a classic example of an "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" way of dealing with

Marshall (Illinois)

In 1972, Velsicol drilled a second well for injection. This well is still in use today. At the request of regulatory agencies, a monitoring well was installed about one-half mile north of the site.

"Marshall is sort of a unique location for us," Bill Child of the Illinois EPA pointed out. Child is the EPA's project manager for Velsicol's Marshall plant.

Child said Marshall has the only deep well in the state with an adjacent monitoring well where "we can actually draw up samples" from the Devonian zone.

In a report dated December 1983, Donald W. Ash, Ph.D., of Terre Haute agreed.

"Because of the concern surrounding disposal of industrial waste of any type, the Velsicol site has become one of the most studied disposal systems in the midwest," he said in the report.

The 1972 well is nearly 3,000 feet deep, with the actual injection taking place at about 2,500 ft. into the Devonian Zone. That zone is immediately below a layer of slate, which prevents the contaminated water from moving upward in the ground.

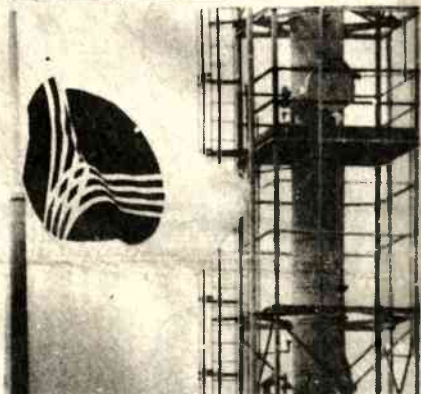
Ross Brower, associate geologist for the Illinois State Geological Survey, said the Marshall area is suited for deep-well injection. He said that above the Devonian zone are several other zones with rock formations that would keep the liquid being injected from reaching aquifers (regions of water-bearing rock) near the surface, which might be used for drinking water.

He also said there is no pressure buildup in the formation that might create a backflow. In fact, Brower said, water from higher zones would be more likely to flow down to the lower zones. He said the contaminated water in the Devonian zone would not flow up to the other zones because of the area's geological makeup.

"Interestingly enough, the material seems to be somehow treated down there," Brower said. He said results from the monitoring well show the substances become less toxic after they are injected, although he admitted no one knows why.

Ash, who is with the geology department of Indiana State University, agrees the Marshall site is suited for deep-well injection. In a 1983 study, he states, "For reasons outlined in this report, the appraisal of the regional hydrogeologic conditions, the structure, and the data gathered to date, it is apparent that the Velsicol plant site is secure from a groundwater pollution standpoint with regard to the Devonian injection wells."

UNDERSTANDING VELSICOL



THIRD OF SIX PARTS

hazardous waste. (See related story.)

The 1964 well in Marshall reached into the Devonian zone of rock. A dropped drill bit forced Velsicol to plug the well at that level. They then started injecting into the Salem Zone, which was not as deep but which geologists said was safe.

A third well is being planned so the first well will not have to be used as a stand-by. The 1964 well can only be used in an emergency when the plant is shut down; the third well would give Velsicol a true stand-by well.

Child said the old well "is not as good as the later well... (because) it does not have as many safety features" as the newer well.

The Devonian zone itself is considered to have a "priority" rate of about 20 percent. One of the major concerns with a deep well is how much of the injected waste the zone's material will accept.

For example, when a glass of water is poured into a sand pile, the water quickly "disappears." The same is true with correctly-operating deep wells. However, the operators must make sure that particles in the waste do not plug up the material into which it is being injected.

The waste water is pumped into the well with an above-ground pressure of about 350 pounds per square inch. To date, there has been no evidence of pressure build up in the Devonian Zone. Brower said that soon after an injection, the water pressure returns to its pre-injection level.

Jeff Brown, environmental manager at Velsicol in Marshall, explained that the waste put down the deep well comes from two main sources.

Part of the waste is made up of byproducts of Chlordane production—spent caustics and the chlorinated organics. He said ways to reduce the amount of spent caustics requiring deep-well injection are always being considered.

Brown said, for instance, that the plant has increased the number of production cycles in which the caustic can be used. He said this also increases efficiency.

While chlorinated organics are the most hazardous substances put down the deep well, most of what goes down the well is storm water. The organics are less than 1 percent of the total volume, and they break down over a period of time, Brown said.

As required by the Illinois Pollution Control Board, no storm water can leave the site. Storm water and snow melt is collected with a variety of trenches and ditches and ends up in holding ponds.

These ponds were originally used to hold wastes from the chemical operations at the plant, but have since been renovated for holding storm water.

Child said "so far no problems have occurred with any of the nine wells in the state," including those in Marshall.

"We have a good catalog of what is going down there," he said.

He said the well at Marshall and other wells in the state are used mainly as "water disposal wells," since most of the injected liquid is storm water.

Brown said people should realize that 60 to 80 percent of liquid going down the well is storm water. About 65 to 100 million gallons are disposed of by deep-well injection by Velsicol in Marshall.

Brown explained that deep-well injection does not run continuously. During dry summer months when there is little storm water, or when the plant is shut down, the injections are made in "batches" instead of continuously.

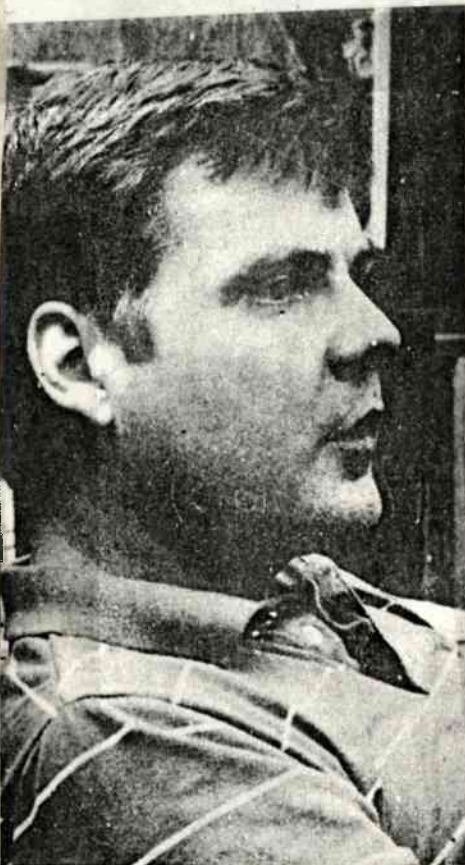
All the material sent down the well is monitored for content, and efforts are made to make the material as compatible as possible.

Both Velsicol and state officials have studied the Marshall site to determine its fitness for deep well injection. The number and placement of other wells in the area, both water and oil, were studied.

Marshall pumps its city water out of an aquifer near the surface, which is near a creek and is replenished with surface water.

The zones of rock and material underground are not level, but are shaped like a basin. Zones that are deep in one area may actually reach the surface in other areas.

While the Devonian Zone is about 2,500 feet underground at Marshall, it "outcrops" near Indianapolis, Villa Grove and in Southern Illinois.



Jeff Brown
Velsicol environmental engineer

This means the Devonian zone reaches the surface in these areas. But the deep-well injection at Marshall does not bother these sites, according to Brown and Brower.

One reason is that the material injected has not "migrated" that far. Results from the deep well one-half mile north of the site in Marshall have not shown any conclusive evidence that the contaminated water has reached even that far, Brown said.

Brower said evidence of contamination has only shown up in the last one to two years at the monitoring well. He said groundwater usually moves only a few inches or feet each year, and there have been no cases in which contaminated water from deep-well injection ever reached the surface from an outcrop.

Secondly, when drinking water is taken from a well in the Devonian Zone, it is near the surface; thus, that well is being replenished with surface water and not by the water that is in the zone's deeper areas.

Brown said people fear the water from a zone contaminated through deep-well injection will somehow pollute water used for drinking. But he said many people do not understand that water in deep zones is not fit to drink anyway, because it is too salty.

Brown said that even if no chemicals were injected into a deep zone's water, that water would still pollute a drinking-water well because of its saltiness.

Precautions are also taken to make sure the deep well does not leak, letting the contaminated water enter other zones closer to the surface that are not acceptable for deep-well injection.

A kerosene fluid is used between the well's inside and outside casing; a leak in either casing would cause the fluid's pressure to drop, bringing the operation to a halt.

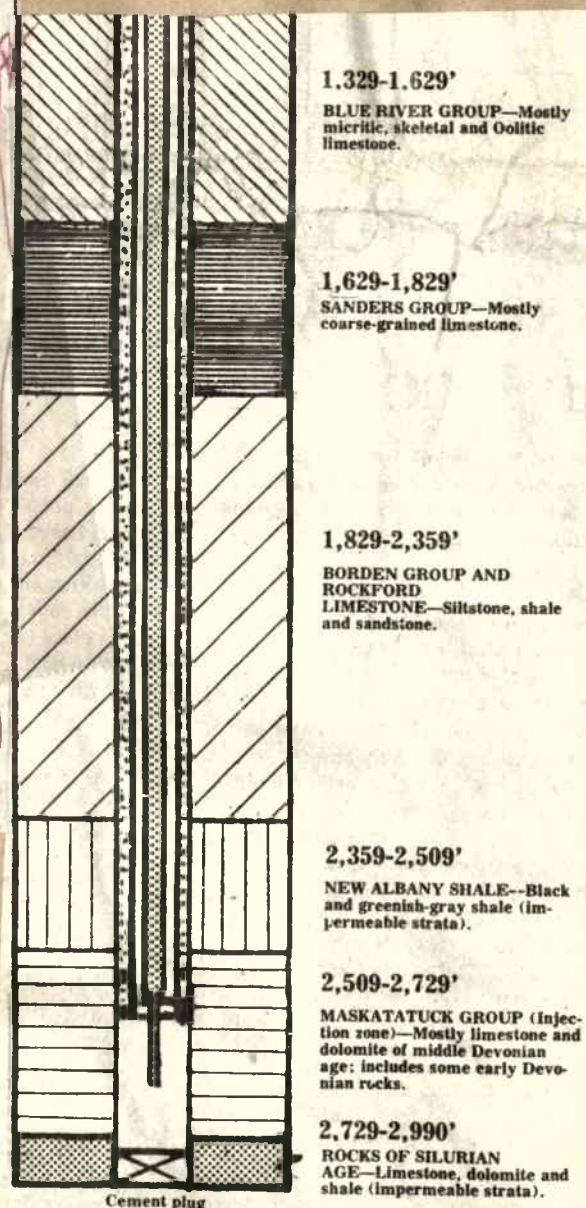
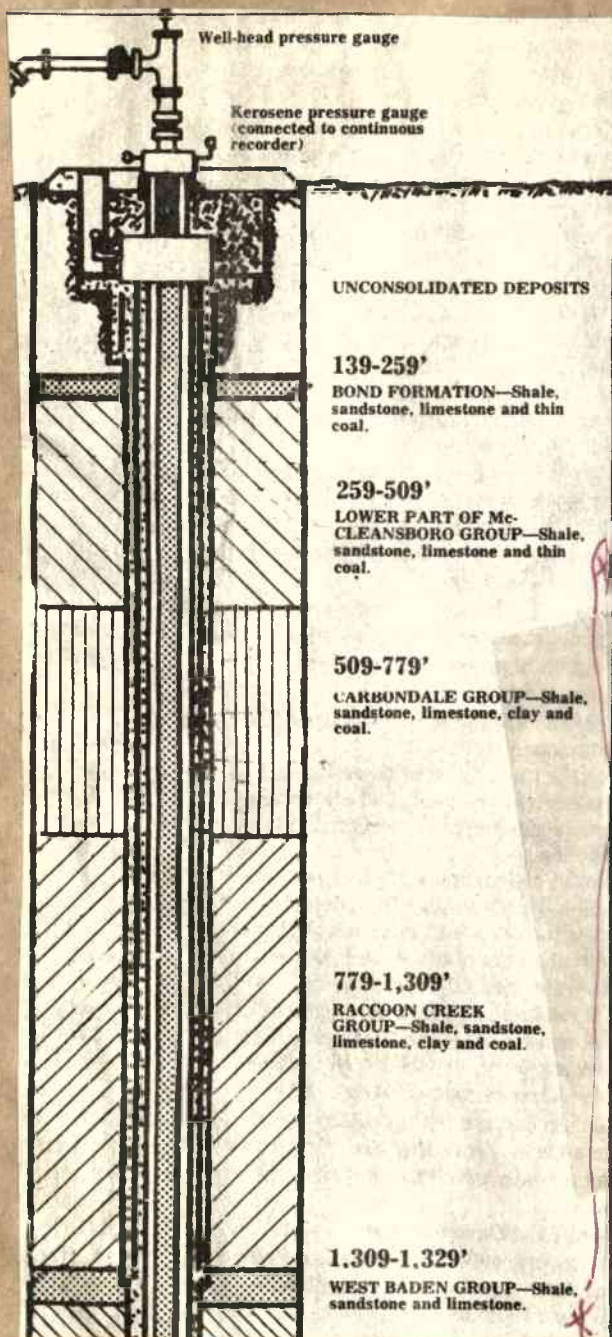
Tests are also done and precautions taken to make sure the contaminated water does not seep up along the side of the casing. Tests have shown this is not a problem.

While some of the spent caustics from the Chlordane operation are "nasty stuff," Brown emphasized that most of the material injected is storm water and that it is injected into a zone where the water is naturally too salty to drink.

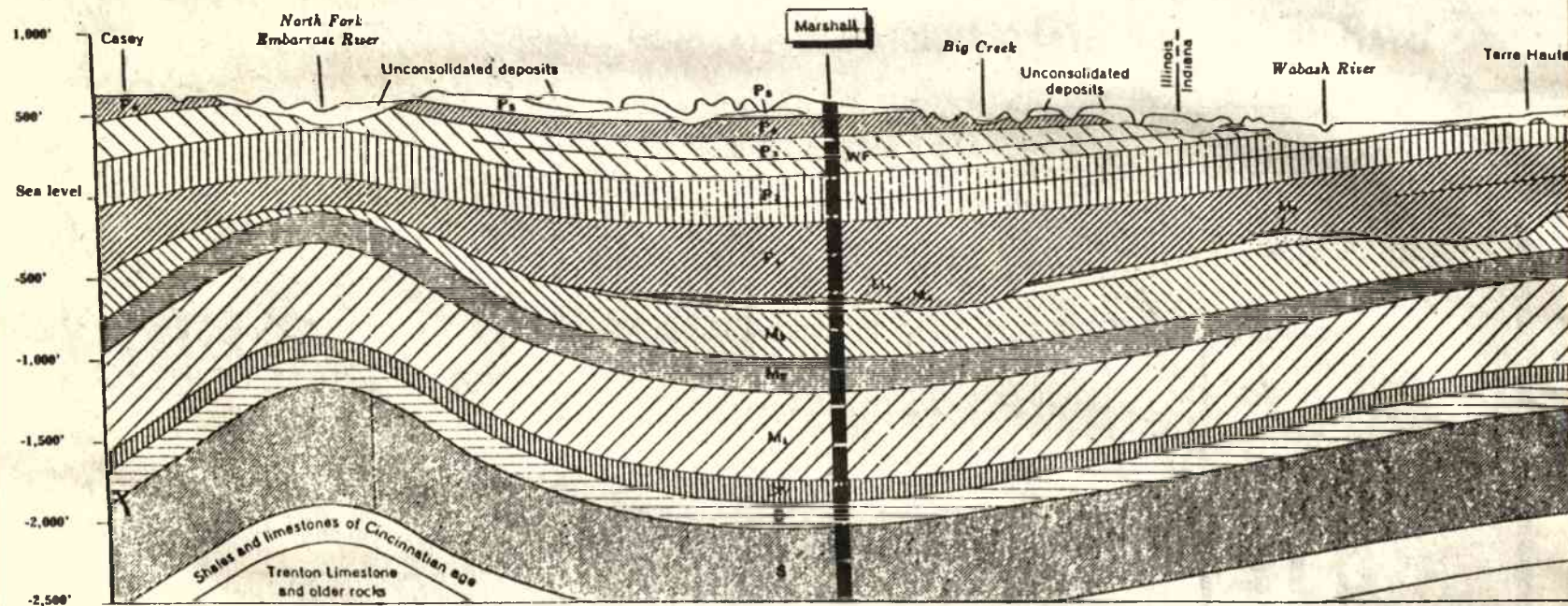
Brower added that the Velsicol operation is as clean now as it has ever been since the plant was in operation. In the past, he said discharges were made into Mill Creek, but under existing conditions no discharges are made and the wastes are handled in EPA-approved operations.

Child pointed out that Attorney General Neil Hartigan is proposing legislation to prevent the EPA from issuing any more permits for deep wells in the state until further study is completed, adding that "there is at least some nervousness about deep wells in the state."

NEXT: The Velsicol odor; will it ever go away?



Above the Devonian zone are several other zones with rock formations that would keep the liquid being injected from reaching aquifers (regions of water-bearing rock) near the surface, which might be used for drinking water.



Above is a geologic cross-section from Casey to Terre Haute, Ind., showing the rock strata that lie under the area. The main Velsicol deep well extends about 2,700 feet below the surface.

Measurements given are accurate, but scales on both drawings have been broken or distorted to include all detail in the space allowed.

Drawings courtesy of Velsicol; well drawing simplified from a diagram by Francis Associates engineers of Paris.

Marshall (Illinois)

Experts debate disposal methods

Community Affairs File

By Greg Gravemier

Managing Editor *Marshall Independent 5/14/84*

WE REACH THE HALFWAY point in our series "Understanding Velsicol" with today's edition of the Marshall Independent. The series will continue in Thursday's issue and will then be completed the following week.

Last Thursday's story was on the 5-6 pond landfill and today's story is on deep-well injection. Both stories are about how Velsicol deals with its wastes, some of which are classified as hazardous. The 5-6 pond landfill is for the disposal of liquid and solid wastes produced in the past. Velsicol no longer landfills on its property any waste it produces, instead shipping it off site to licensed disposal facilities.

Velsicol also uses deep-well injection to get rid of some of its liquid wastes, including large volumes of storm water.

These two stories tell about Velsicol and how it is handling the wastes it produces. The stories do not cover in any great detail the controversies surrounding the processes themselves. While doing research for the stories, it became evident that landfills and especially deep-well injection are not without their critics. Some environmentalists do not approve of either method, because in their opinion the problem is not solved until the substances are no longer hazardous.

Some of the substances in the landfill are hazardous. That is why Velsicol is installing groundwater monitoring wells. A small part of the liquids injected down the deep well are also hazardous. Some environmentalists favor methods of disposal, such as incineration at high temperatures, that actually change the molecular structure of the substance and make it non-hazardous. Such methods are usually very expensive.

However, from our research, it is apparent landfills and deep-well injection are accepted by most authorities on hazardous waste. They are also accepted by our government, through the Environmental Protection Agency. According to the people we interviewed, Velsicol has taken steps to follow the proper guidelines and procedures. Marshall is also apparently geologically suited for both a landfill and deep-well injection.

Personally, my only major question is about the monitoring process for the landfill in the proposal now being studied. The plan calls for Velsicol to be responsible for monitoring the groundwater around the landfill for 30 years, which does not really seem like a very long time in the long run.

It is important that residents of Marshall and Clark County know what is going on at Velsicol. People should know that wastes are being injected into the ground and that a 22-acre landfill containing hazardous materials is on the site. Both of these facts will be with the community for a long time. And if the proper safeguards are observed, which they apparently are, there should be no problems. We should just remember what is going on, so that out-of-sight will not be out-of-mind.

EXTRA NOTES: A couple of readers have asked why the landfill is called the "5-6 pond." I posed that question to Velsicol officials; they explained that as the holding ponds were built at the plant, they were numbered. There were apparently as many as seven ponds at the plant at one time. At some point in the plant's history, the No. 5 pond and the No. 6 pond were combined into one pond....While I have written the Velsicol series, others have helped with the project. Michael Case, staff writer, accompanied me on some of the lengthy interviews with Velsicol officials and we also toured the plant together. Greg Bilbrey, assistant editor, took most of the pictures at Velsicol and is doing the graphics for the series.

Marshall (Illinois)

Community Affairs File

Velsicol is well-known for its smell—but officials, EPA say the air is clearing

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

Marshall Independent

5/17/84

I would expect the Velsicol odor not to be here. Mike Poe, environmental engineer at the Velsicol plant in Marshall, said during a recent interview.

Poe was speaking of the future after several steps are completed to control "fugitive emissions" at the plant.

Velsicol has long been known for its unmistakable odor—an odor, that at least in the past, could be smelled from Interstate 70 north of the site.

Poe believes environmental steps have already decreased the odor from the site and he hopes within a few years the odor will be gone.

Poe does not like the term "fugitive emissions" because of its negative connotations. But, technically speaking, a fugitive emission is any odor released into the atmosphere which is not planned.

A release from a smokestack is planned and is called a "point-source emission." A release from a leaking pump would be a fugitive emission.

Dick Forbes, unit manager of the permit division on air pollution for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, said point-source emissions, which are easier to measure, are regulated by the EPA through permits. However, fugitive emissions are not regulated largely because "they are less than measurable" since the concentrations are diluted in the atmosphere.

Forbes believes one of Velsicol's biggest problems is the type of chemicals it must handle.

While Forbes does not believe Chlordane, the only product now made by Velsicol in Marshall, is a particular odor problem, some of the "intermediate materials are."

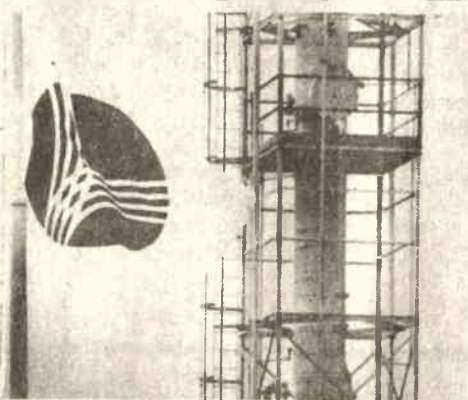
Some of the chemicals used in making Chlordane have "very, very low odor thresholds" even in "very, very small concentrations," Forbes said.

Forbes gave mercaptan, the additive put into natural gas, as an example. Since natural gas cannot be detected by the human nose, small amounts of mercaptan are added by natural-gas suppliers so that any leaks can be detected before they create a problem.

The amount of mercaptan added to natural gas is so small it can't be measured except for a few parts per billion. And although it has a strong odor, it is not harmful to people's health in the amounts added to natural gas.

Forbes said some of the chemicals hand-

UNDERSTANDING VELSICOL



FOURTH OF SIX PARTS

ed at different stages of the Chlordane operation at Velsicol are much the same. The actual concentrations in the atmosphere are very small, even though the odor can be strong.

One of the biggest sources of the Velsicol odor is the 22-acre 5-6 pond on the west side of the plant. This site is now being stabilized, and when Velsicol completed negotiations with regulatory agencies it will be capped as a landfill.

Poe believes the three-foot clay cap with an additional foot of sand and top soil will go a long way toward controlling the odor problem at the plant. Even after the hazardous sludge in the 5-6 pond is stabilized, it will still retain part of its odor.

Velsicol officials would like to cap the 5-6 pond this summer, but the actual timetable of the project depends on approval from the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

Poe said plans to correct other sources of fugitive emissions are being completed. They include new spill-containment areas with a cement base so spills can be cleaned up quickly and efficiently.

The "hex" filters used in the production of Chlordane also must be changed once in a while, which Poe said increases the odor problem. He said they were looking at ways to reduce the odors from that operation.

The environmental officials at the plant would also like to switch from bladder pumps to mechanical pumps. Poe explained

continued on Page 11

VELSICOL

Continued from page 1

that bladder pumps use the material being pumped to make a seal, which allows some odor. Mechanically sealed pumps would eliminate the problem.

Poe said officials are also considering carbon filters on storage-tank vents, another source of emissions.

Forbes said all of these measures will help greatly in reducing the odor at the site.

Forbes said spring and fall "overturns" can also cause odor problems at any site with ponds. An overturn occurs when temperatures change; the warmer water in the bottom of the pond comes to the top as the colder and denser water on top goes to the bottom. The sediment in the pond is often stirred up, causing an odor.

Forbes said the odor problems at Velsicol in Marshall were decreased when the resins operation was eliminated recently. He said that operation added a "plastic" smell to the plant.

Forbes said the odor at the plant does seem to have been reduced in recent years. He said the EPA only received one complaint last year about the smell at Velsicol. He said an EPA official checked out the complaint and could not find any particular source for the odor.

Poe said making the changes to reduce the odors even further will require "a lot of time." And he added what little work is left on the stabilization of the 5-6 pond might cause some odors this year.

All of the emissions at the plant contain "non-criteria pollutants." This means that none of the emissions contain any of the eight compounds regulated by the Clean Air Act, Poe said.

He said "ambient toxic air" is new science, which is "just now really getting started." He said odors are subjective and what might be an annoyance to one person may not be to another. (Ambient air is the air surrounding something.)

Poe said many toxic air problems are being handled on a state or local level. He said there are "millions of chemicals made and used in the U.S." and the states are beginning to tackle the problems in their area.

"I don't think there is a danger," Poe said about the health effects of the Velsicol plant. He said the "odor has been here since the plant was built" and there is no evidence of

Forbes said the odor at the plant does seem to have been reduced in recent years. He said the EPA only received one complaint last year about the smell at Velsicol; an EPA official checked out the complaint, he said, and could not find any particular source for the odor.

any problems created by the odor.

Forbes agreed, stating "we (the EPA) don't see a problem with health" at Velsicol. He said some of the materials handled do have OSHA requirements, which prohibit their use in confined spaces, but he said Velsicol is aware of those guidelines.

Air monitoring at Velsicol has been limited to efforts by the health and hygiene department to monitor the air breathed by individual employees. Poe explained that if the odor caused any problems, it should show up with the employees first.

Forbes said ambient air monitoring is "too expensive" to do on a regular basis and the EPA doesn't "see a need" to request such procedures.

The Illinois EPA does have air monitors strategically placed around the state to detect any major changes or problems with the air content.

As to the EPA's relationship with Velsicol on air pollution matters, Forbes said "we've had no adverse problems working with the company." He said Velsicol has "generally worked to address the problems they have."

He added that environmental regulations have changed over the past several years, and the regulations in effect 10 years ago are "nowhere near acceptable today." He said Velsicol and other chemical companies have had to work to meet these challenges.

NEXT: What health impact has Velsicol had on its employees and the community.

One of the biggest sources of the Velsicol odor is the 22-acre 5-6 pond....Poe believes the three-foot clay cap with an additional foot of sand and topsoil will go a long way toward controlling the odor problem at the plant. Even after the hazardous sludge in the pond is stabilized, it will still retain part of its odor.



Studies keep tabs on employees' health at plant; safety is a 'top-to-bottom' effort

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

MARSHALL INDEPENDENT

5/21/84

There is no evidence of any long-term latent effect on health related in any way to employment at the Velsicol plant in Marshall, Ill., for the 34-year period in which it has been engaged in the production of chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides.

So says a report completed in 1980 by Shindell and Associates of Milwaukee, Wis., on 783 current and former Velsicol employees who worked three months or more at the Marshall plant from Jan. 1, 1946 through Dec. 31, 1979.

The often referred-to report also said the mortality (death) rate was "significantly lower in the male employees than that expected in the comparable segment of the U.S. population as a whole, probably as a result of the lifestyle of the community in which the plant is located.

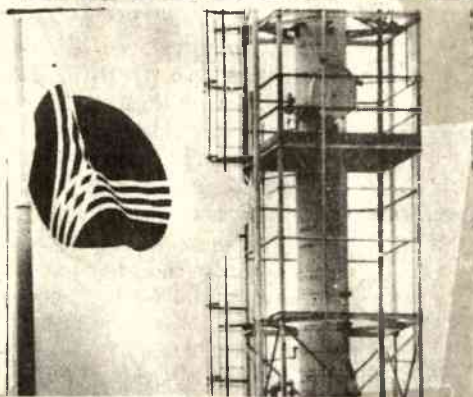
"Analysis of these data...supported the conclusion that employment at the Marshall plant has no effect upon the employees with respect to either the causes of death or the overall longevity of such employees," the report states.

Since the acute effects of exposure to hazardous materials are already known, "the primary focus of the study...was to attempt to discern the long-term effects of exposure to allegedly hazardous materials."

Harvey Davis, director of environmental health and hygiene for Velsicol in Chicago, said the Shindell report "set the data base for subsequent study" of health effects associated with the plant.

He said studies such as this are usually updated every five to 10 years to allow time for natural deaths and changes. He said the Shindell study for Velsicol in Marshall may be updated as early as next year.

UNDERSTANDING VELSICOL



FIFTH OF SIX PARTS

Davis said the Shindell report and other studies are important in how Velsicol's deals with its employees.

Marshall plant manager Tom Capps said the results of the Shindell study of the employees and the MacMahon study of pesticide applicators "have been very favorable."

Davis said as management became more concerned about environmental issues during the late 1970s, Velsicol also started paying more attention to employees' health. The most recent version of the Shindell report was completed in July 1980.

Davis said both the company and the employees benefit from an "atmosphere where they feel comfortable about their health and their families' health."

Presentations have been made to both management and regular employees to "show what the study meant...(and) what other people have done." He said Chlordane has only been singled out as a carcinogen (cancer-causing substance) in one study of laboratory animals, and that study was inconclusive.

Davis said chemical companies all too often keep health information only for regulatory purposes, but he said Velsicol believes it is committed to share the information with its workers.

Capps said Velsicol believes in an "open flow of communications" and the studies are "available to anyone in the plant." He said that includes hygiene surveys, monitoring programs, including atmosphere monitoring and the health and safety audits.

Davis said the company is not trying to project a "goody-goody" image, but that it is profitable to keep employees informed. He said employment at the Marshall plant is stable and many of the employees have been there for years.

He said employees who are comfortable with the health environment of their workplace are more productive. He said it is important to "make employees aware of what risk is all about."

Davis said Velsicol was one of the first corporations to provide work clothing daily for the production employees. Workers are encouraged to shower before leaving the plant; it is not necessary to take any chances that contamination leaves the site, he said.

A health van, specializing in caring for industrial employees, visits the plant about once a year. Employees are given tests and examinations, which cannot be conducted in the doctor's office at the plant, that include chest X-rays and blood chemistry.



VELSICOL

Marshall Plant

MAY SAFETY SLOGAN

FIRST RULE OF SAFETY

IS

KNOW YOUR JOB

1238 Days Without Lost Time Accident

The safety action committee works on "buzz words"—slogans for the safety marquee—and plans special safety recognition activities....Slogan contests are held and employees are expected to recite that month's safety slogan word-for-word when asked.

Capps said what tests each employee receives is based on age, health history and risk factors, but that any employee wanting specific tests may request them.

Velsicol also hires a part-time nurse and a doctor who visits the plant on Fridays. Employees who have any health problems that show up in the tests are given a review of the findings by the medical personnel.

Davis said most of the health problems uncovered are "not occupationally related." He said the health tests are "generally a service to our employees" and they are encouraged to take appropriate follow-up measures.

Along with the health concerns, Velsicol also has put new emphasis on plant safety.

Velsicol won the prestigious Lamont DuPont Safety Award in 1982 and again this year, 1984. The Chemical Manufacturers Association presents the award to companies showing the greatest percentage reduction in injury and illness frequency.

Statistics showed that Velsicol would have also won the award for 1983, but contest rules prevent the same company from winning the award two years in a row.

This year the awards were given in three categories and Velsicol—including all six of its U.S. plants—won in the intermediate range with a 78 percent reduction.

Capps, who became the local plant manager in 1981, said Velsicol began around 1979 to emphasize safety more. He said the big improvements in the safety records are a result of "tangible and visible support" from top management down to hourly employees.

The Marshall plant has an elaborate system of committees working on safety issues.

The central safety committee is responsible for developing safety programs while its sub-committee, the safety action committee, works on "buzz words"—slogans for the safety marquee—and plans special safety recognition activities, such as the employee picnic.

Slogan contests are held and employees are expected to recite that month's safety slogan word-for-word when asked.

Supervisors also meet with their hourly workers to go over safety concerns and work on specific months.

On alternating months, the "work gangs" meet for a "formal safety program," which might include slides and films, Capps said.

On the other month, foremen concentrate on one-on-one meetings with their workers. Capps said these sessions involve "give-and-take" on both sides and include discussions of safety relationships.

Capps also personally reviews reports of all the meetings and all incidents in which an employee gets first aid. He said he pushes for follow-up work and sends about 60 percent of reports back for more information.

The average age of the employees working at Velsicol in Marshall is 53. Capps said that makes a very mature work force; he said these "people tend to be just a little more cautious" than younger and less experienced employees.

Capps added that Velsicol is very aware that its employees are "our most important asset."

NEXT: What impact does Velsicol have on the local economy, and how long will the plant stay open?

THE FUTURE

Community Affairs File

Marshall, Illinois

Corporation's Marshall plant still contributes to economy while researchers look for more products to make here

By Greg Gravemier
Managing Editor

Marshall Independent
5-24-84

MARSHALL — Since Velsicol got out of the resin business in 1980, Marshall "has been essentially a one-product plant," according to Tom Capps, plant manager.

Capps said no one is more aware than he of the "vulnerability... (and) lack of flexibility" that gives the Marshall plant. However, Capps does expect Velsicol's sole product made in Marshall, Chlordane, to remain on the market for the foreseeable future despite environmental controversies about its use.

Chlordane has been used to control termites for more than three decades. It was used as an agricultural pesticide in the U.S. until it was phased out in 1978. It is used as a agricultural pesticide in some foreign countries.

Capps, who came to Marshall in 1981, said one of Velsicol's main goals now is to develop additional products for the plant. He said they are not necessarily looking at "brand new" products that would take several years of research to develop, but Velsicol is interested in getting involved in "known products."

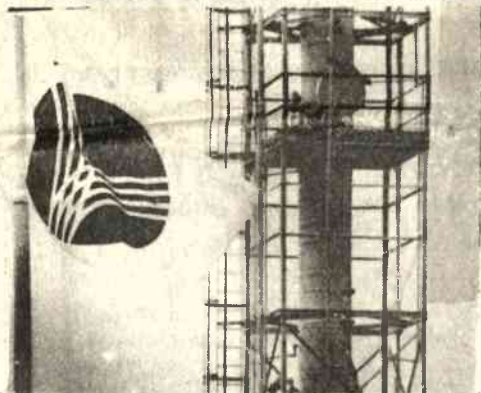
Velsicol would like to find a product to make which would "hopefully use existing equipment." Capps has two technical people spending about 60 percent of their time investigating new products.

They have come up with some ideas that haven't materialized for one reason or another. Capps said raw material availability was a problem with one product. And just as Velsicol was getting ready to make another product, the market disappeared.

Capps said not all products "fit into the operation" of the Marshall plant. He said Velsicol in Marshall is basically "in the chlorination business," and other Velsicol plants might be more suitable for producing some chemicals.

But Capps said it is a "matter of time and effort" and he is confident "we'll be successful."

UNDERSTANDING VELSICOL



LAST OF SIX PARTS

He said Velsicol has a "big investment here in this property" and that the corporation is committed to Marshall, the site of the first Velsicol plant.

Capps believes that commitment is evident in the effort and money spent on the plant. Capps said comparing "where it (the Marshall facility) was 15 years ago to where I expect it to be five years from now" is evidence of a commitment to Marshall.

And, he added, "you just don't walk away from environmental problems and responsibilities." For instance, the plan for the closure of the 5-6 pond landfill calls for Velsicol to monitor the groundwater in the area for the next 30 years.

A little less than 100 employees work at the Marshall plant. According to payroll records, the highest employment level in recent years was 196

"We're not a terribly large plant," Capps admitted, but added "we generate a lot of money," which is invested in the local economy.

The current annual payroll at Velsicol is \$1.7 million, of which Capps said about \$1.2

million is "take-home pay" that goes directly into Velsicol's "area of influence."

Velsicol has an annual material and services budget, including maintenance, of \$600,000, of which "two-thirds is spent right here in this area of influence."

For utilities alone, the Velsicol plant spends another \$600,000 a year. Two of those utilities, gas and water, are purchased through the city of Marshall.

Capps said aside from capital expenses, Velsicol has spent \$7 million on environmental projects since 1978, including the work on the 5-6 pond. This year alone, Velsicol plans to spend \$2.5 million of environmental work.

Velsicol's annual routine capital expense budget is \$700,000.

Capps said Velsicol's impact on the local economy is "just not the number of people." He pointed out that Velsicol's hourly wage rate "is one of the highest rates" in the area.

And he added, that money pumped into the local economy multiplies by six as it turns over again and again.

"A lot of funds are being generated and turned around" in the local economy, Capps said.

Local community leaders also praised the impact of Velsicol on the Marshall community.

Richard Bernadoni, president of the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce, said he had nothing but positive things to say about Velsicol. He said Velsicol has been "very good to the chamber," giving "financial support as well as moral support and manpower."

Del Detmer, industrial relations manager at Velsicol, serves on the Marshall chamber board as "industrial relations representative."

Bernadoni said Velsicol "pours a lot of dollars into the local economy." He said the plant offers "fairly good salaries for the employees...one of the highest in the county."

Bernadoni said the chamber is willing to work with Velsicol to make sure the plant stays open. He said statistics show 88 percent of new jobs come from expanding existing businesses and only 12 percent come from new businesses.

Velsicol also spends its money locally when feasible. Frank Bubeck Excavating of West Union has done much of the excavation work on the landfill project.

Marshall Mayor Ted Trefz said the city has a "good working relationship" with Velsicol and that the city will "help in every way we can" to keep the plant in Marshall and to help Velsicol expand.

Tom Capps
Plant Manager



Capps said Velsicol has a "big investment here in this property" and that the corporation is committed to Marshall, the site of the first Velsicol plant.